■ NEWS / A3
GMA to preside over Security Council summit attended by Bush, Blair, other leaders

■ WORLD / A8
Richest nation struggles to cope with Katrina's destruction

■ LIFESTYLE / D1
Fr. Jerry Orbos, Korean visionary to team up for Day of Healing Sept. 11

■ SIM / Q6
Life may be a drag, but there's always Helen Cruz

'Jueteng' cash for bishops, it's help; for mayors, a bribe

By Jerry E. Esplanada

WHEN jueteng money is given to the Church, it's called aid, but when it goes to a mayor, it's called a bribe.

Churches were among

JUETENG/ A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

'Tent of Hope' to pave way for new level of protests

By Luige A. del Puerto

DISGUSTED at the Arroyo administration moves to kill the impeachment complaint and appalled by the shallowness of the debates in Congress, the militants clustered around the "Tent of Hope" are preparing for a new level in protest actions.

TENT/ A4

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
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website: www.inq7.net

It's moral, bishop insists

Capalla sees nothing wrong with taking gambling money

By Christian V. Esguerra, Jhunnex Napallacan and Tonette Orejas

DAVAO CITY—Archbishop Fernando Capalla sees nothing wrong with the Church receiving cash donations from state-run gambling operations, especially if these directly benefit the poor.

"The principle of morality does not apply in the situation," the Davao prelate told reporters yesterday in reaction to allegations that he and two other archbishops had received donations from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. ranging from P500,000 to P4 million.

"My conscience is clear," he said.

A source in Pagcor had earlier named Capalla—along with Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal and Archbishop Paciano Aniceto of San Fernando, Pampanga—as having received cash donations taken from the "intelligence fund" of Pagcor chair Efraim Genuino.

In 2003 alone, the three bishops and two others, 45 priests and monsignors and 18 religious groups received a total of P3,305,000 as Christmas "cash gifts," according to Pagcor documents furnished by the source.

Capalla, outgoing president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, denied receiving such big amounts or.Christmas gifts from Pagcor. But he said he had received donations coursed through the Pagcor office in Davao.

In the past, too, he said, Church "institutions and personalities" received similar donations, with bishops serving only as "conduits."

At present, the Church refers requests directly to Pagcor, and the agency sends donations usually in the form of checks to the poor, he said.

Quoting Vidal, Capalla said: "I'd rather be criticized than let the poor die of sickness or hunger."

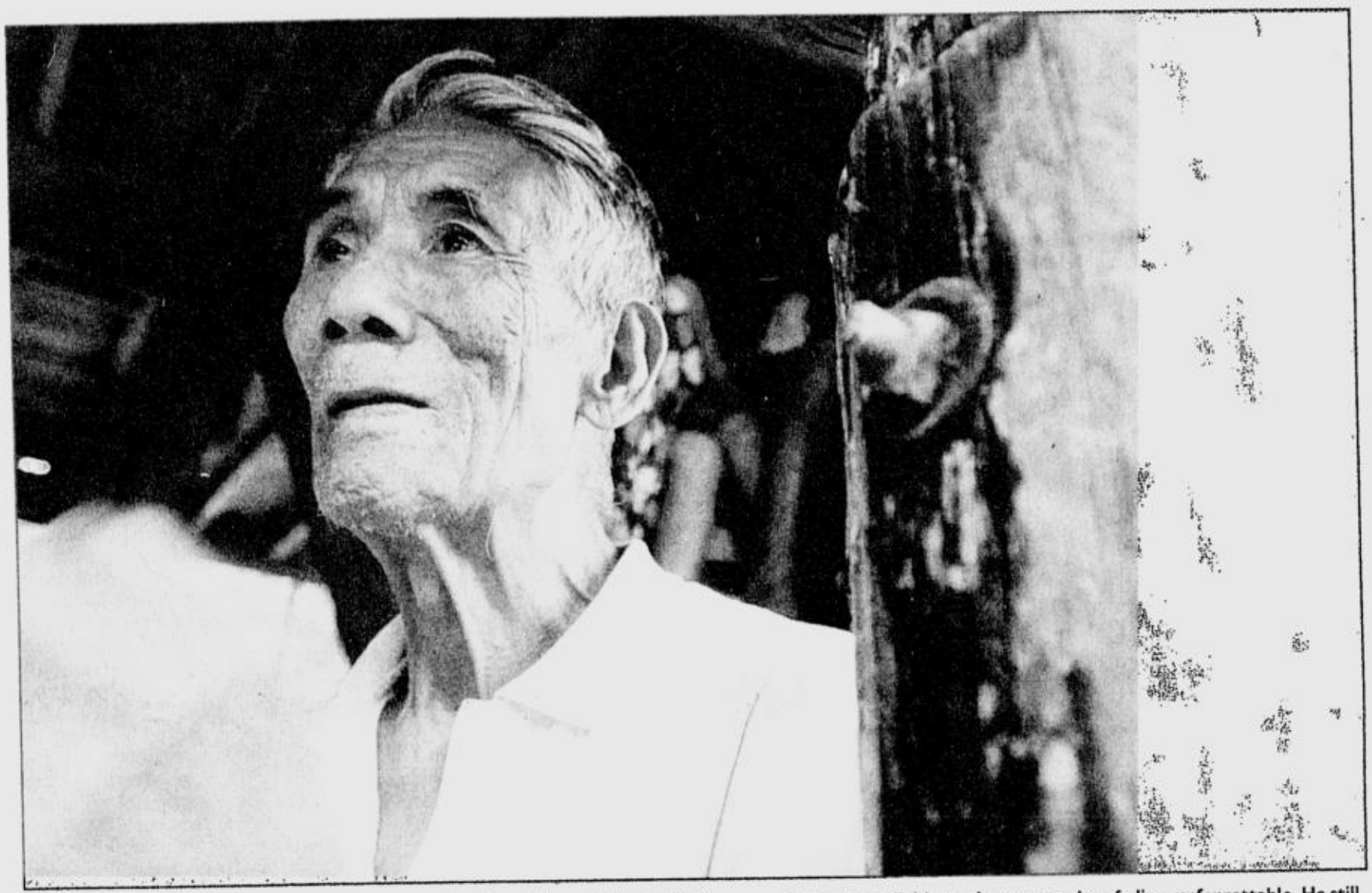
According to Aniceto, certain Pagcor officials left "little envelopes" containing "different amounts of money" on the bishops' desks in July at the end of their retreat and as they prepared for their annual conference in Tagaytay City.

He said the incident happened before the CBCP issued its statement on the political crisis hounding Ms Arroyo.

Aniceto did not join the conference because he had to leave for the United States to officiate at the wedding of a niece.

In the statement issued on July 10, the CBCP chose not to support calls for Ms Arroyo's resignation on the heels of the

IT'S/ A20



THE MOMENT in history is becoming as elusive as the Yamashita gold, but to 90 plus-year-old Domingo Pahigon, the memory is unfading, unforgettable. He still lives where he saw it happen in his native Kiangan, Ifugao. He witnessed what no Filipino was supposed to see by order of the US military. REM ZAMORA

Last man alive who saw Yamashita surrender

By Volt Contreras

KIANGAN, Ifugao—Ifugao tribesman Domingo Pahigon was there when Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita surrendered to American officers bringing an end to World War II in the Philippines 60 years ago.

Or was he?

According to documentation efforts that woefully came decades late, Pahigon was a rare Pinoy eavesdropper to Yamashita's moment of defeat.

Since US troops barred the "natives" from the school compound that served as the surrender site for Yamashita, locals know of only one man who saw, or claimed to have seen, how "The Tiger of Malaya" executed a salute of capitulation to a receiving party of American officers.

During the war, Pahigon had fought alongside bolo-wielding militias. Now a frail but affable, betel-chomping grandfather believed to be in his 90s, Pahigon has long captivated his neighbors and their children with fond but fading memories of that morning of Sept. 2, 1945.

Through an interpreter, the INQUIRER managed to put him into a story-telling mood last Friday, when the town held rites marking the 60th anniversary of the Yamashita surrender.

Already hard of hearing, his mind sometimes meandering, Pahigon could recall a few details. Obviously, richer versions of his story were told in his younger years.

That day, he recounted, Kiangan's Filipino populace had been concentrated in a hamlet set up at the poblacion upon orders of the Americans in view of a malaria outbreak. Shortly before 10 a.m., Pahigon and a friend,

LAST MAN/ A19

A BROTHERHOOD forged in battle 60 years ago, PMA's 2nd Class Cadet Yuri Bo and Jusmag's Sgt. Calvin Purks bear the colors at rites marking the end of WWII at Camp John Hay in Baguio on Saturday. REM ZAMORA

RP, Red Cross to help Katrina's victims

PINOY GONZALES/PHILIPPINE NEWS SERVICE

BAYANIHAN SPIRIT is alive and well in the US. You're welcome to use our empty apartment for free, Fil-Am couple Ben Ongoco (standing) and his wife Susan (seated, left) of Houston, Texas, tell hurricane victims, from left, Theresa Sato, Celeste Bioc, Jackie Pineda Sato, Kein Sato, Cathy Ilagan, Ramir Bioc, Dominick Bioc and Philip Tivoli. The Filipino community in Houston is helping stricken Pinoys in New Orleans.

THE PHILIPPINES is pitching in to help the hurricane-ravaged US Gulf Coast with the deployment of a 25-member humanitarian team ordered by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The first batch of 10 doctors, nurses and sanitary engineers will leave for the United States this week, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday.

He said the President decided to send a team to the United States because she considered that country an ally that had "never hesitated" to help the Philippines in times of disaster.

Ms Arroyo has also appealed to the more than two million Filipinos in the United States, particularly doctors, nurses and engineers, to contribute whatever they can to the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

The Philippine National Red Cross is doing its share.

Sen. Richard Gordon, chair of the PNRC, said it would send

RP, RED CROSS/ A4

Soldier discovers God in battle, turns priest

By Christian V. Esguerra

IT'S NEVER too late to find God.

The late Jaime Cardinal Sin, who would have turned 77 last Wednesday, had this in mind when he put up the Holy Apostles Senior Seminary (HASS), a special school mostly for professionals studying for the priesthood. It's the only one of its kind in Asia.

Since 1985, the school has produced 56 priests, including a bishop. Not bad for a country so short of priests that there's only one for every 15,000 faithful.

Over the years, the school has had lawyers, doctors, accountants, engineers, businessmen and psychologists as students striving to become priests.

When he was still alive, Sin took pride in having produced a priest out of very unlikely material—a soldier.

Meet Fr. Gregrorio Ramos, 46, a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy and a participant in the 1989 coup attempt against then President Corazon Aquino. Among his "mistahs" (classmates) in Batch '81 was Col. George Rabusa, now facing a plunder charge for allegedly amassing P62 million while working in the Armed Forces comptroller's office.

Ramos' personal journey back to the faith pretty much sums up the story of many others who came knocking at the gates of the San Carlos Seminary in Makati, where HASS is located.

"Before, I was just like many Filipino Catholics today—bap-

SOLDIER/ A19

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2005

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/09/04/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Opposition: Pro-GMA camp serving up cash and threats

By Philip C. Tubeza and Blanche S. Rivera

ARMED with bags of cash and using threats of political retribution, administration officials are making house calls on key congressmen to ensure that President Macapagal-Arroyo survives the impeachment battle in the House, opposition lawmakers said yesterday.

The targets of the alleged house-to-house campaign are the House members who have signed the impeachment complaint as well as a crucial bloc of 10 to 15 administration lawmakers whose signatures would give the proimpeachment camp the 79 votes needed to put Ms Arroyo on trial in the Senate, they said.

Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano and House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said the officials, armed with money "bags," had visited lawmakers in their homes to convince them to be absent from "Monday to Wednesday" when the House is expected to vote in plenary on the impeachment issue.

Besides the 73 actual or pledged signatures which Ms Arroyo's foes claim to have secured, around 10 to 15 administration lawmakers have promised to vote against the House justice committee report junking the amended complaint against the President, Cayetano said.

He and Escudero said they expected the crucial vote to start on Tuesday and last till the "wee hours of Wednesday morning."

Cayetano and Escudero made their claims after Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay told the INQUIRER on Friday that some signatories to the complaint would either withdraw their signatures or not attend the plenary vote.

"We had an assessment meeting and it was confirmed by two of our colleagues that government officials were asking congressmen not to go [to Congress] from Monday to Wednesday," Cayetano said.

"They were offering cash and the money would be given then and there if they agreed."

He said the enticements included offers of foreign trips for the congressmen and their families.

Cayetano added: "This only shows that the administration is already panicking and is doing everything to prevent the complaint from going to the Senate. It also shows that the administration is not only guilty but that it is also willing to break the law and destroy institutions to get want it wants."

Cayetano said the government officials involved in the supposed operation were known to the congressmen since they came from agencies that either implemented the lawmakers' pet projects or were involved in their "advocacies."

Cayetano said two administration lawmakers first reported the offers after they refused them.

Escudero, however, said that the primary targets of the "boycott" campaign were the 48 lawmakers whose names were already publicly known after they signed the amended complaint.

"They are being told that they don't have to withdraw their signatures and only need to be absent," Escudero said.

"But we are confident that they would refuse. We have a high regard for our colleagues and they will vote in the plenary against the committee report. We have no doubts about their resolve."

While Escudero was confident about the 48 signatories, Cayetano was concerned about the group of 10-15 administration lawmakers because there was—besides the offers of cash—an alleged implied threat of political retribution if they voted against the committee report.

"They are given the feeling that the administration is going to last until 2010 and that it controls the police and other agencies," Cayetano said.

He said the proimpeachment camp was also trying to confirm if the same tactics were being used on five opposition members—Caloocan Representatives Luis Asistio and Oscar Malapitan, Maguindanao Rep. Baisendig Dilangalen, Valenzuela Rep. Antonio Serapio and Quezon City Rep. Vincent "Bingbong" Crisologo—who have yet to sign the complaint.

With the 10-15 administration lawmakers and the five opposition members, the proimpeachment camp would have a "pretty good chance" of getting the 79 votes, Cayetano said.

"We are so, so close," Cayetano quoted San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora—supposedly the only person who knows the exact number of complaint signatories—as saying during their assessment meeting.

Already, a foremost critic of Ms Arroyo is throwing in the towel for his opposition colleagues in the House.

With Juliet Labog-Javellana

ALING Mameng shows her disgust by punching a huge photo of the President. JOAN BONDOC

Urban poor leader has no use for GMA, Cory, Susan, Hyatt 10

LIKE former President Corazon Aquino, Susan Roces and the so-called Hyatt 10, Mameng Deunida wants to bring down President Macapagal-Arroyo.

But though she may be on the same side as them, Deunida has no use for Aquino, Roces and the ex-Cabinet members who are the putative leaders of the anti-Arroyo movement.

"They are all *plastic*," said Deunida, an urban poor leader and signatory to the impeachment complaint against the President, at the launch of the Gloria Step Down! Movement (GSM) at the Quezon City Sports Club yesterday.

Deunida claimed that Aquino had joined the proimpeachment group to "cover up for the truth about Hacienda Luisita," the Aquino family sugar estate where more than 10 workers were killed by policemen in a strike last year.

Roces, a former movie star, was only interested in the presidency which eluded her husband, the late presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr., said Deunida, 77, a veteran of the anti-Marcos and two People Power movements.

She smirked at the mention of the Hyatt 10, the Arroyo government officials who turned against the President and are likely to be among the witnesses against Ms Arroyo if she is impeached and the case goes to trial in the Senate.

"No, not one of them is worth bothering about," Deunida, the chair of the Kadamay urban poor group, said in Filipino.

Deunida was among the signatories to the amended impeachment complaint filed on July 25 which the House committee on justice threw out last week, along with two other complaints.

A former laundry woman who lives in the Leveriza slums with her janitor son, Deunida said she was "disappointed" by the decision of the House justice committee to throw out the complaint.

She said she was also unhappy with the House members who refused to sign the impeachment complaint, or who took back their signatures after they were allegedly offered money by allies of Ms Arroyo.

"It's not principle that prevails but money. They did not even think about the country's interest," she said in Filipino.

Deunida said Ms Arroyo should be replaced by a transition council of personalities "who are accountable to the people."

Fe B. Zamora

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Special Events Schedule

SEPTEMBER 4, 2005
Sunday

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Activity Area 1
Crystallized Photo Frames and Magnetic Message Holders
by The Thought Factory (TTF)

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Playstreet Story Telling and Bubble Demo
(with admission fee)

10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Basic Hair Cutting
by Bagong Henerasyon Foundation, Inc. (BHFI)

10:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.
WTC Lobby
Science Fun Factory
by Samahang Pisika ng Pilipinas
Admission Fee: Php 25

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Activity Area 1
Print Lifting Images to Cotton Drink Coasters/Mats (TTF)

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Playstreet
Clay Moulding, Arts & Crafts
(with admission fee)

2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Function Room A
Purpose of Life, Resurrection and Hereafter in Islam According to Qur'an and Risale-I Nur
by Eternal Publications Trading

2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
"Meditations & Music Reflections" Authors accompanied by invited musicians
by Church Strenghtening Ministry

4:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
The Makati Skyline
National Book Awards
by Manila Critics Circle
(by invitation only)

4:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.
Activity Area 1
Basic Animation
by Mowelfund Film Institute (MFI)

5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Reflexology Workshop
(BHFI)

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Special Guests: Bagong Henerasyon Foundation Inc.

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Bigots, Lagman calls former party mates

By Blanche S. Rivera

INSISTING he resigned and was not expelled from the Aksyon Demokratiko party, Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman had only biting words for his former party mates.

"What bigots! After (Isabela Gov. Grace) Padaca left, they should be trying to keep their members," Lagman said yesterday.

Padaca, who took the Isabela governorship in a landslide victory in 2004, quit Aksyon last year after a falling-out with the party.

The party, founded by the late Raul Roco, announced the other day that it was expelling Lagman because of his deviation from Aksyon's official stand to support the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Lagman, who spoke at the Sulo Hotel forum yesterday, maintained that there was no official Aksyon party stand on the impeachment.

He said the position of Roco, who was among the first to call for the President's resignation when he was still alive, did not constitute the party stand.

"With all due respect, Roco's stand was his own. If they wanted to have a party stand, they should have called for a meeting but there was none," said Lagman.

He said he had spoken with "high-profile" Aksyon members, including the party's former senatorial candidates, and they confirmed that the party did not have an official stand on the impeachment.

Aksyon secretary general Lorna Kapunan announced the expulsion of Lagman the other day, saying he had been making public statements without the concurrence of Aksyon.

Fuel prices up by 50c

OIL FIRMS Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Caltex Philippines Inc., Petron Corp. and Total (Philippines) Corp. yesterday raised the pump prices of gasoline by 50 centavos per liter and cooking gas by 50 centavos per kilogram.

Shell effected its price hike at 6 a.m., followed by Caltex at noon and Total at 6 p.m.

Petron raised its prices at 12:01 a.m. today while new player Eastern Petroleum Corp. jacked up its prices at 4 a.m. Flying V would follow suit at 12:01 a.m. tomorrow.

However, prices of the socially sensitive diesel and kerosene remained unchanged.

The oil firms cited the spike in regional unleaded gasoline prices and international liquefied petroleum gas contract prices as the reason for the price increase.

Premium unleaded gasoline now retails at between P33.55 to P34.69 a liter, diesel at between P29.79 to P31.45 a liter, kerosene at between P30.94 to P32.50 a liter, and LPG at between P372.50 to P425.50 per 11-kilogram cylinder.

As this developed, Petron Corp. yesterday clarified that nearly 38 percent of its total net income of P5.73 billion in 2004 to the first half of 2005 was derived from its sales to the export market.

Petron said that of its P3.42 billion net income in 2004, P1.38 billion came from export sales. Of its P2.31 billion income in the first half of 2005, exports accounted for P770 million, it said.

Abigail L. Ho

GMA to preside over UN summit of world leaders

By Nikko Dizon

LEADERS of the 15 countries on the United Nation's powerful Security Council have agreed to meet on ways to stop terrorism and other armed conflicts, and President Macapagal-Arroyo is to preside over the Sept. 14 summit in New York, the Philippines' top diplomat at the UN said yesterday.

"The Philippines scored a major diplomatic coup today when the Security Council gave the go-ahead for the convening of a historic summit that will bring together the leaders of the 15 member-states that make up the most powerful organ of the United Nations," Ambassador Lauro Baja Jr., the Philippines' Permanent Representative to the UN, said in an e-mail to local media.

Baja, this month's Security Council president, said this came after members of the powerful organ, in closed-door consultations Friday morning, unanimously approved the work program for September. The Philippines currently chairs the Security Council.

"Delegations consider the summit as a coup for the Philippine presidency since several council presidents had tried to convene summits of the council before," Baja said.

The meeting will be attended by US President George W. Bush, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Russian President Vladimir Putin, French President Jacques Chirac, Chinese President Hu Jintao and the leaders of Algeria, Argentina, Benin, Brazil, Denmark, Greece, Japan, Romania and Tanzania.

With the approval of the meeting's agenda, Ms Arroyo, besieged by scandals and a threat of impeachment at home, "is well on her way to becoming the first Filipino President, the first Asian head of state and the first woman leader to preside over a summit of the Security Council," Baja said.

According to Baja, this would be the third Security Council summit in the UN's history. The first, in 1992, was chaired by then British Prime Minister John Major and the second, held in 2000, was presided over by then President Alpha Oumar Konare of Mali.

"I'm glad we were successful in the first round. The bigger challenge ahead is the negotiations on the outcome document," Baja said.

The envoy said the Security Council would be working on two draft resolutions: Britain's appeal to all nations to ban incitement of terrorist actions and another draft on the prevention of conflicts tabled by Algeria, Benin and Tanzania.

The British draft resolution, which comes on the heels of terror attacks in the British capital, calls on countries to take appropriate measures to counter "violent extremist ideologies, including steps to prevent the subversion of educational, cultural and religious institutions by terrorists and their supporters."

The Security Council meeting will coincide with the opening of a three-day UN world summit to be attended by more that 170 world leaders. This meeting may also be asked to address both terrorism and conflict prevention in a final document. But the proposed 39-page draft is still under intense negotiations, and serious differences remain on virtually all key issues. *With reports from AP and Reuters*

Bill filed vs 'pushy' telcos

ACTING on complaints from cellular phone subscribers, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago has filed a bill seeking to penalize telecommunication companies for "unsought services" which eat up subscribers' phone credits.

Senate Bill No. 2088, or the "Unsought Cellular Mobile Phone Services Act of 2005," proposes that phone companies found guilty of automatically charging their subscribers for unsought services that reduce their prepaid credit or increases the postpaid credits of subscribers be slapped with a P1-million fine or have their permits suspended or revoked.

"Numerous complaints have reached my office regarding the propensity of telecom companies to barrage their subscribers with unwanted services such as ringing tones, polyphonic tones and video and picture messages, and then automatically charging these to their subscribers," Santiago said.

"We must put a stop to this scam. Not contented with the billions of pesos in profits they rake in annually, these telecom companies still have the nerve to cheat consumers," she said.

Santiago said the subscribers have the right to freely decide how they want to spend their credits. She noted that the bulk of prepaid mobile phone users come from the middle- and low-income classes.

The senator said the bill was proposed to her by four college students who were undergoing internship in her office's 2005 Summer in the Senate program.

The students were Bernice Francisco of the College of St. Benilde, Andre Ruanto of Far Eastern University, Eugen Aison Soriano of New Era University and Reynard Kayne Ycasiano of Ateneo de Manila University. *Juliet Labog-Javellana*

Gloria's Saudi Arabia trip hangs

SINCE the impeachment process went into its crucial stage the past few days, President Macapagal-Arroyo has been hard put to stick to her daily schedule.

Yesterday, Malacañang disclosed that the President was seriously reconsidering plans to fly to Saudi Arabia next week before going to New York to preside over the United Nations Security Council summit on Sept. 14.

In a text message, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the President's Saudi Arabia trip, scheduled for Sept. 11, "might be rescheduled to after the UN visit."

Bunye did not give any reason for the possible postponement of what would have been the President's first official state visit since the wiretap scandal broke out in June.

The House of Representatives is expected to come up with a final vote this week on the impeachment complaint against the President.

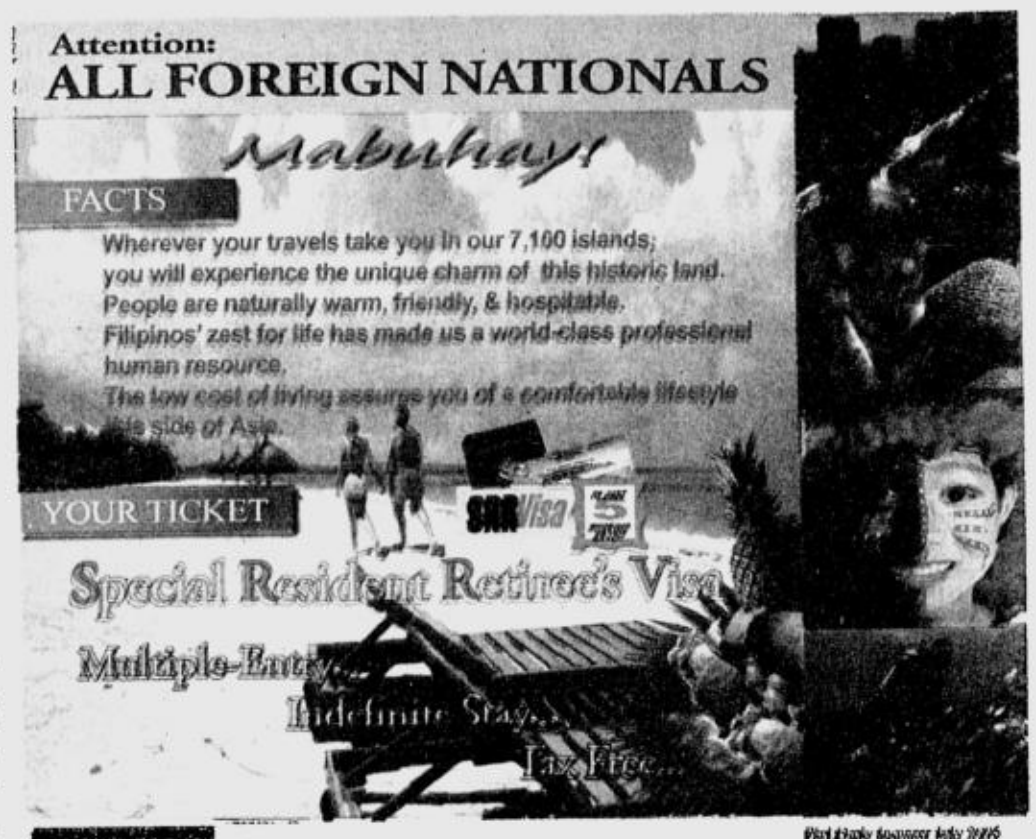
Even after the House justice committee resolved to kill the impeachment complaint, the outcome of this week's events remain uncertain, including whether the opposition would come up with the minimum 79 signatures needed to impeach or how the public would react to the defeat of the impeachment complaint.

The President was planning to discuss the status of overseas Filipino workers in Saudi Arabia, the application of the Philippines for observer status in the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and the soaring price of oil.

Saudi Arabia is one of the Philippines' biggest sources of oil and the state-owned Saudi Arabian Oil Co. (Aramco) is the government's partner in Petron.

The President's US trip, however, remained on schedule, Bunye said.

"This is an important trip because it is rare that our country will preside over such an important UN body. It is an international obligation that she has to make," he said. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*



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8-9 September 2005
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PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

Day 1 [September 8, 2005 - Thursday]

AM
7:30 - 8:30 Registration
Master of Ceremonies : Noel Ponce, M.D.
8:30 - 9:00 Opening of Booths and Ribbon Cutting
9:00 - 10:00 Opening Ceremonies
- Invocation - National Anthem : Hi-Eisai Four Tenors
- Welcome and Opening Remarks : Simeon Marasigan, M.D.
- Keynote Address : Modesto Lluntas, M.D.
President Philippine Medical Association
- Address from Allied Specialist Group societies
Ruth Padilla, RN
President, Philippine Nurses Association
Maria Zenaida Aberasfle, MHPEd
President, Philippine Physical Therapy Association
Teresita Mendoza, OTRP
President, Occupational Therapy Association of the Philippines
Joyce Munzon,SLP
President, Philippine Association of Speech Pathologists
Luella Ortiz-Bance,PhD
President, Psychological Association of the Philippines
Madeleine Gabrielle Dacanay
Adviser, AMSWIPI and DOH League of Social Workers
Corazon Barba, PhD
Nutrition-Dietitian Association of the Philippines
- Program overview: Jacqueline Dominguez, M.D.

10:30 - 11:15 First Plenary: Alzheimer's Disease: From Molecular Biology to Neuropsychiatry
Speaker: Jeffrey Cummings, M.D. (Director, UCLA Alzheimer's Disease Research Center)
Plenary Chair: Simeon Marasigan, M.D.
11:30 - 1:10 Lunch Symposium: Understanding the Role of Glutamate and Memantine in Alzheimer's Disease
Speakers: Simeon Marasigan, M.D. and Jacqueline Dominguez, M.D.
Sponsor: Lundbeck

PM
1:15 - 2:10 Second Plenary: Neuropsychology in a multidisciplinary dementia team
Speaker: Donald Yeo, PsyD (Senior Clinical Neuropsychologist, Singapore General Hospital)
Plenary Chair: Encarnita Arapil, M.D.

First Track: Vascular Dementia and Related Topics
Chair: Encarnita Arapil, M.D.
2:10 - 2:20 Address from the Chair
2:20 - 2:50 Diagnostic issues in vascular dementia - Michelle Antezana, M.D.
2:50 - 3:20 Neuroimaging and Vascular Dementia - Danilo Lagamaya, M.D.
3:20 - 3:50 Alzheimer's Disease and Vascular dementia: Comparative neuropsychological profiles - Encarnita Arapil, M.D.
3:50 - 4:00 Open Forum
4:00 - 5:00 The Filipinized assessment tools in dementia -Rachelle Rolandez & Nikki Jean Jurisprudencia
6:30 - 8:30 Dinner Symposium: The Role of Acetylcholinesterase Inhibitors Across Stages of Alzheimer's Disease
Speaker: Jeffrey Cummings, M.D
Sponsor: Hi-Eisai
8:30 Fellowship Night

Officer of the Day: Evangeline Cadi, M.D.

Day 2 [September 9, 2005 - Friday]

AM
Third Plenary:
8:00 - 8:50 Successful aging
Speaker: Doris Maribel Cumpay, M.D.
8:50 - 9:15 Dementia Services in the Philippines
Speaker: Venus Serra-Arain, M.D
Plenary Chair: Noel Ponce, M.D.

Second Track: Early Alzheimer's Disease
Chair: Noel Ponce, M.D.
9:15 - 9:25 Address from the Chair
9:25 - 9:50 Progress Reports in MCI - Jacqueline Dominguez, M.D.
9:50 - 10:20 Gait Abnormalities in Dementia - Ronald Martinez, M.D.
10:20 - 10:50 Understanding Clinical Trials in Alzheimer's Disease - Antonio Ligsay , M.D.
10:50 - 11:00 Open Forum
11:00 - 11:15 The Role of Occupational Therapy in Dementia: Coping with Memory Loss - Christine Marie Coronel, OTRP
11:15 - 11:30 Enhancing communication with Demented Patients - Alexandra Ledignon, SLP
11:30 - 1:10 Lunch Symposium: The Role of Atypical Antipsychotics in the Behavioral Symptoms of Dementia
Speaker: Gerard Salazar, M.D.
Sponsor: Astra Zeneca

PM
1:15 - 2:10 Fourth Plenary: Rehabilitation Issues in Dementia
Speaker : Consuelo Suniga, M. D.
Plenary Chair: Maurice Sanoza, M.D

Third Track: Miscellaneous Issues in Dementia
Chair: Maurice Sanoza, M.D.
2:10 - 2:20 Address from the Chair
2:20 - 2:40 Problem behaviours and psychological symptoms in dementia Constantine Della, M.D.
2:40 - 3:00 Dealing with Night time behavior amongst Dementia Sufferers - Deanna Santos-Ringor, M.D
3:00 - 3:20 Improving Mobility in Couples Environments Edward James Gorgen, PTRP
3:20 - 3:50 Nursing Approach via Therapeutic caregiving - Prof Lydia Manahan, RN
3:50 - 4:00 Open Forum
4:00 - 4:30 Dementia Care: The Davao Experience Eva Aranas-Angel, M.D
4:30 - 6:00 "The joys and agony of caregiving" Joel Eleazar, M.D. (Director)
6:30 - 8:30 Dinner Symposium: Clinical Updates on Exelon Speaker: Marcos Ong, M.D Sponsor: Novartis
8:30 Induction of New DSP and ASG members Closing Ceremonies

Officer of the Day: Carmelita Coquia, M.D.

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RP, Red Cross to help Katrina's victims

From page A1

$25,000 in aid to the hurricane victims and would start a fund drive for them.

"We are answering the call to help our brethren who have been devastatingly affected by the disaster," Gordon said in a statement, adding that the money would be sent through the American Red Cross.

Gordon said he would also send medical and post-trauma stress debriefing teams if requested by American Red Cross authorities.

He recalled that the American Red Cross had sent disaster aid and relief missions to the Philippines in times of need.

1,000 doctors, nurses

Speaker Jose de Venecia said the government was considering sending a contingent of 1,000 Filipino doctors and nurses "if needed to augment US needs."

He also proposed sending a team of Filipino oil industry engineers and technicians "if needed in US efforts to restore and rebuild" damaged oil rigs and refineries along the US Gulf Coast.

He aired an appeal to Petron chair Nick Alcantara and Philippine National Oil Co. president Ed Mañalac to determine how Filipino experts could be mobilized.

De Venecia said the President had directed Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo and Philippine Ambassador to the United States Albert del Rosario to work out the mechanics of "embedding Filipino relief and humanitarian teams" with US federal relief efforts.

"In our global village, we all must try to extend assistance to victims of one of the worst natural disasters to hit the United States," the Speaker said in a statement.

"These efforts will be under the umbrella of relief efforts of US federal and state authorities," he said.

Fil-Am communities

De Venecia said Romulo had begun discussions with Filipino consuls in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Houston to coordinate civic action efforts by Filipino communities.

He said businesswoman Loida Nicolas Lewis, president of the National Federation of Philippine-American Associations, had "responded to this initiative to see how US-based Filipinos could contribute to the humanitarian effort for victims in the stricken states of Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi and Florida."

De Venecia said Lewis promised "a speedy response" during a recent phone conversation.

He also said he would further discuss the offer of Philippine humanitarian and relief aid with US Speaker Dennis Hastert and US congressmen in the stricken Gulf Coast states.

"America has done so much for the Filipino people in war and in peace—and in times of disaster and natural calamities. We must come to the aid of Americans in their hour of need," De Venecia said.

Feeling their anguish

On Thursday, Ms Arroyo issued a statement expressing sympathy for the hurricane victims.

"The Filipinos also feel the anguish the Americans are experiencing in the aftermath of the disaster. We wish the American people a speedy recovery from this calamity, and we extol their courage and sense of community in overcoming the heavy loss of precious homes and human lives," she said.

Former US Presidents Bill Clinton and George Bush are leading an international appeal for public donations to help the hurricane victims.

It is a reprisal of the two ex-presidents' fundraising efforts for the victims of the tsunami that struck nations along the Indian Ocean last year.

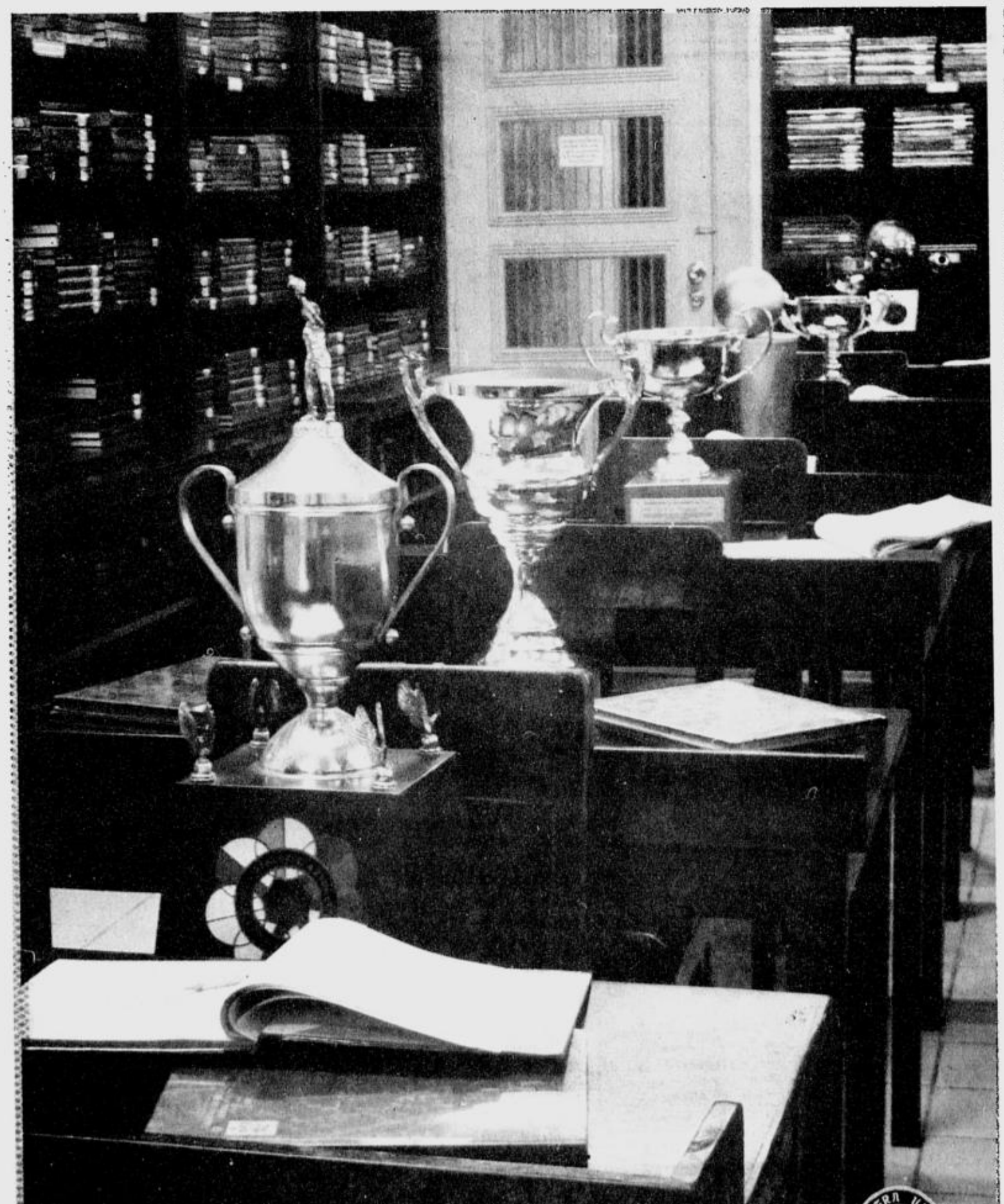
Not expecting much

Various countries, including Canada, Venezuela, France, Germany and Italy have pledged or sent assistance to the hurricane victims.

But US President George W. Bush has been quoted as saying: "I'm not expecting much from foreign nations because we haven't asked for it. We love help, but we are going to take care of our own business as well." *Reports from Gil Cabacungan Jr., Philip C. Tubeza, AP*

'Tent of Hope' to pave . . .

From page A1



"We're talking to bishops, clergymen, the academe and the laity," said Nicanor Perlas, a convenor of the Kompil II coalition that helped bring down Joseph Estrada and is now battling to oust Macapagal-Arroyo.

"We're planning mass mobilizations," he said.

Depending upon what will finally happen to the impeachment complaint, Perlas said their protest might ultimately involve civil disobedience.

"It is nonviolent, but civil disobedience still expresses the ultimate disgust at what those in power are doing," he told the INQUIRER yesterday.

The group, which includes activist priests Robert Reyes and Raul "Puti" Fernandez, set up the tent at the foot of the People Power monument along Edsa two months ago to dramatize their opposition to Ms Arroyo following allegations that she was involved in electoral fraud and that members of her family took "jueteng" bribes.

Rather than take part in street protests, the mostly middle-class men and women at the Kubol ng Pagasa (Tent of Hope) has resorted to prayers and fasting for solutions to the country's political woes.

Their argument is that a spiritual struggle must first be won for the political struggle to be won.

The other day, the group called upon the public to light six candles at 6 p.m. every day and pray that six more congressmen sign the impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo.

'Six at six' project

Hence, the "six at six" project.

The opposition has claimed it has already secured 73 votes, six short of the number needed to transmit the impeachment complaint to the Senate and put Ms Arroyo on trial.

Reyes said his group would try to identify the institutions or corporations allied with, or owned and influenced by, the government and when the time came, call upon the public to boycott them.

"What's good with civil disobedience is that you can do that in the privacy of your home. You simply boycott everything that has to do with government. You boycott everything that has to do with Gloria," he said.

Perlas said if the impeachment complaint were crushed—and the group feels nothing less than a miracle would keep it alive—the people would be left with very few alternatives.

In fact, he said, several people whom he considered "conservative" had begun expressing their frustration at the way things were turning out.

Perlas called on the bishops to rethink their position.

"It was clear from their statement that they endorsed an impeachment," he said. "It is now time for them to take another stand."

A people's court

If the impeachment case should finally collapse, the group will set up a "People's Tribunal," according to Perlas.

"We're talking to opposition congressmen and they're amenable to the idea. We will try to bring their evidence [against Ms Arroyo] directly to the people."

Perlas said it was now evident that Ms Arroyo never wanted to be tried in any court, much less an impeachment tribunal. He said she had sought to create the impression that she wanted her day in court but that she did not really mean it.

She has, in fact, employed ruses to wiggle out of her troubles and fend off the political heat, Perlas added.

She never really wanted to come clean, he said.

"She would say this but actually do something different, creating impressions she never followed through," Perlas said.

He said proof of this was the way pro-administration congressmen had handled the debates in the impeachment hearings.

"Their arguments were shallow and illogical; it was disgusting hearing them. Clearly, they would not listen to anything, no matter how good the argument was," he said.

Correction

YESTERDAY'S story "Carjackers have new modus operandi," which appeared on Page A19 of the Metro Section, misstated that businessman Peter Asuncion's car was a "Honda Vios." It should have read "Toyota."

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses: glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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Vol. 19 No. 268

OPINION

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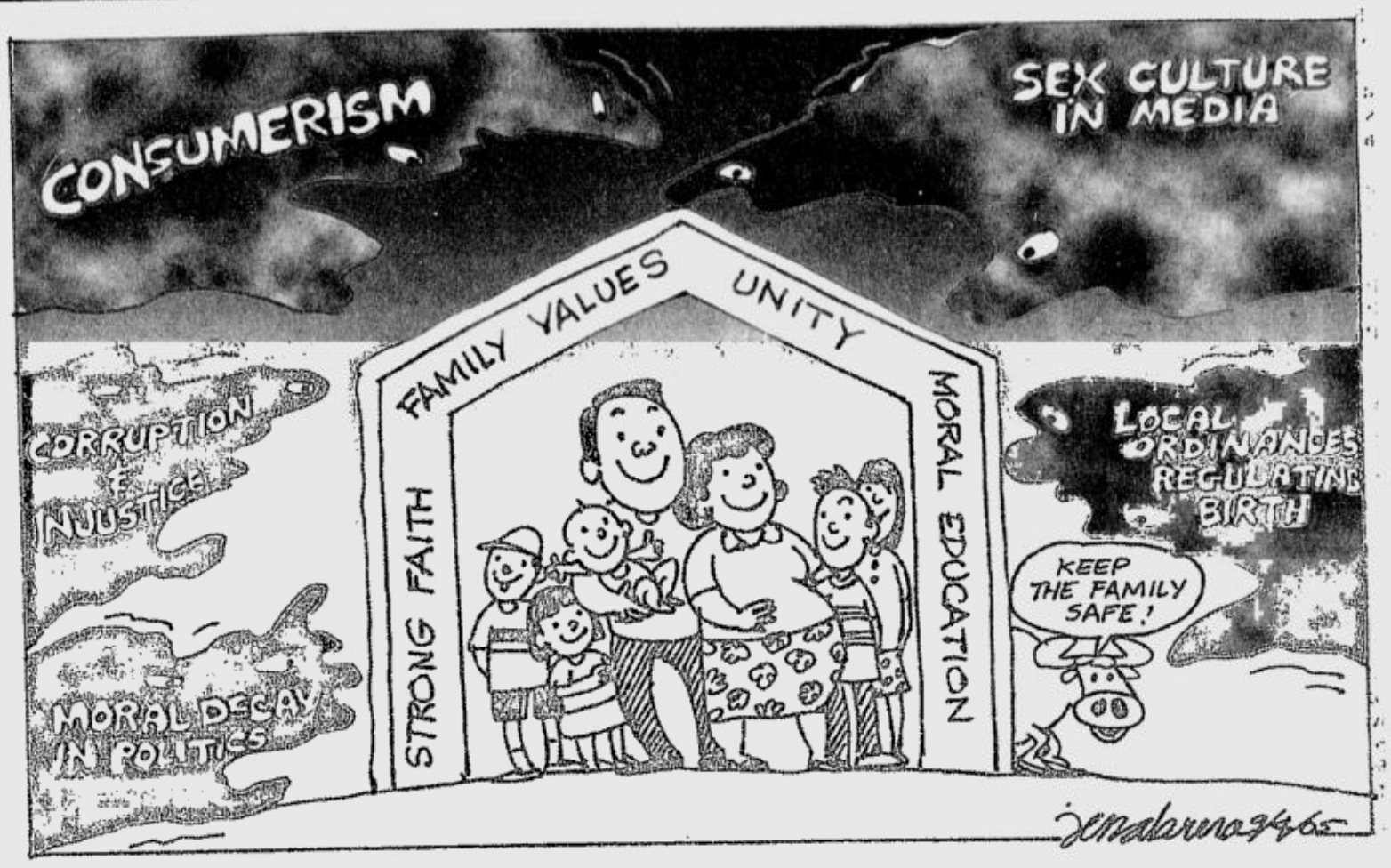


A majority vote

LAWYER Ismael Khan took considerable pains last Thursday to describe the exact color of the Supreme Court's 15-0 decision on the expanded value-added tax. The much-anticipated ruling, which upheld the new law's constitutionality two months after the high court issued a temporary restraining order blocking its implementation, could not be characterized as a unanimous decision, the high court's spokesman said.

EDITORIALS

"The court, by a majority vote, opted to dismiss all the five petitions and upheld the constitutionality of the law," Khan said in a news briefing.

He carefully noted that several justices wanted to strike down certain provisions of the law as unconstitutional, but in each of the disputed portions, there was never a majority of the high court voting against. "Eight votes are required to declare a particular section unconstitutional," Khan explained. Because of these objections, and despite what the final tally said, Khan said it was inappropriate to describe the ruling as a unanimous one. It was best to call it a majority vote.

This nuanced view may give some of the petitioners, which include the political opposition and an alliance of petroleum distributors, some hope of a successful appeal. The TRO remains in effect until the Supreme Court rules with finality on any motion for reconsideration.

But that hope now rests on striking down portions of the new law, not the law itself. A 15-0 vote, regardless of how you describe it, is an almost insurmountable barrier; reversals on appeal happen mostly in closely decided cases.

Some of the organized groups emphatically against the expansion of the VAT have practically given up on the judicial process, by promising a return to the streets. In truth, this is where public attention will turn to next. A close ally of the President's has already called on her to postpone the imposition of the expanded sales tax, precisely because the higher prices the new law will lead to may cause great public discontent.

It is incumbent on the administration, which prayed for the new law, to manage the public's expectations. Otherwise, the decision will go down as an answered prayer—in the sense used by the great Carmelite saint, Teresa of Avila. "There are more tears shed over answered prayers," she wrote, "than over unanswered ones."

A clear conscience

THE SUPREME Court also issued a related ruling last Thursday: It found ex-finance secretary Cesar Purisima guilty of indirect contempt, and fined him P20,000. His crime? Well, as far as we can tell, it was casting aspersions on the integrity of the high court.

Purisima, a leader of the Hyatt 10 breakaway group of Cabinet-level officials, had been haled before the Supreme Court to explain a statement the media attributed to him, which suggested that politics influenced the high court's decision to temporarily suspend the implementation of the expanded value-added tax law. In his defense, Purisima said he had been misquoted.

But the court would have none of it. "Purisima should know that these press releases placed the court into dishonor, disrespect and public contempt, diminished public confidence, promoted distrust in the court and assailed the integrity of its members. The court already took a beating before Purisima made any disclaimer. The damage has been done, so to speak."

We do not think that was in fact the case; but even if it were, we think the ruling is still unfortunate. In effect, the high tribunal sought to repair the damage it thought it had sustained by wreaking more havoc. The ultimate object of its ruling is not Purisima, but the constitutional guarantee of free speech.

On many occasions, this newspaper has praised the judiciary, often called the weakest branch of government in political theory, as in fact the strongest of the three. We cannot understand the Purisima ruling as the act of a branch of government confident of itself.

The great Justice George Malcolm said it best, and said it for all time. Public officials must not be "too thin-skinned," because wounds sustained in public service "can always be assuaged by the balm of a clear conscience."

Some constitutional ambiguities

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THERE is now a debate on the proper procedure to be followed when Congress decides to directly propose any amendment or revision of the Constitution, which must be done under its Article XVII, Sec. 1, "upon the vote of three-fourths of all its Members."

The House of Representatives feels that the phrase "all of its Members" refers to the totality of the 236 representatives and the 24 senators and that the vote required is based on the 260 members of Congress coming from both chambers. Under this interpretation, the House of Representatives can muster the required three-fourths vote of 195 to convene Congress into a constituent assembly even over the objection of the entire membership of the Senate.

The Senate has the opposite view. It believes that the three-fourths vote should be taken from the Senate and the House of Representatives, voting separately, which means that even if the latter chamber unanimously supports the measure, Congress still cannot act as a constituent assembly without the concurrence of at least 18 senators.

Fr. Joaquin Bernas wrote in a recent column that the procedure is likened to the lawmaking process, where either chamber may approve any ordinary bill subject to concurrence by the other chamber. But he does not say that the similarity ends there. The difference, of course, is that the vote required when Congress proposes a constitutional amendment or revision is "three-fourths of all its Members," and its approval shall be made not by the President of the Philippines but by the electorate in the required plebiscite.

The Commonwealth Constitution, which replaced the unicameral National Assembly with a bicameral Congress, carefully amended its original Art. XV, Sec. 1 by providing that "the Congress in joint session assembled, by a vote of three-fourths of all the Members of the Senate and of the House of Representatives, voting separately, may propose amendments to this Constitution or call a convention for the purpose."

Yet the Constitutional Commission of 1986, while also establishing a bicameral Congress, called for a vote of three-fourths of all its members without distinguishing between the Senate and the House of Representatives. I cannot help thinking that it may have been influenced by the 1973 Constitution which provided in its Art. XVI, Sec. 1 (1) that "any amendment to, or revision of, this Constitution may be proposed by the National Assembly upon a vote of three-fourths of all its members, or by a constitutional convention."

Otherwise, they would have exercised the same caution displayed by the National Assembly in 1940 when it made the necessary change in Art. XV of the Commonwealth Constitution.

Interestingly, the new Art. XVII also provides in its Sec. 2 that "the Congress may, by a vote of two-thirds of all its Members, call a constitutional convention or, by majority vote of all its Members, submit to the electorate the question of calling such a convention." It is also not clear if the two-thirds vote should come from each chamber, voting separately, or from the totality of the members of Congress without distinction between the two Houses.

There is another ambiguity in Art. VII, Sec. 19 when it provides that the President "shall also have the power to grant amnesty with the concurrence of a majority of all the Members of the Congress." This evidently was merely copied from the corresponding provisions in the Constitution of 1973 and also the Commonwealth Constitution, which this time also forgot that the Congress it would be establishing would be bicameral.

Should the required vote come from each House voting separately or from both Houses voting jointly?

There is Art. VI, Sec. 28(4) stating that "no law granting any tax exemption shall be passed without the concurrence of a majority of all the members of the Congress." Father Bernas' analogy would apply here because this involves the enactment of a law. But the grant of amnesty, the proposal to amend or revise the Constitution, the decision to call a constitutional convention or to leave this question to the people, are clearly not lawmaking and might suggest a different procedure.

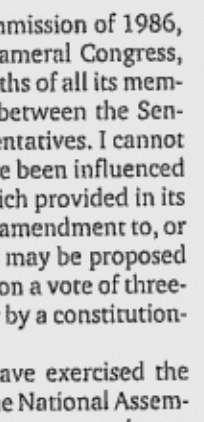
Interestingly, Art. VI, Sec. 23(1) carefully provides that "the Congress, by a vote of two-thirds of both Houses in joint session assembled, voting separately, shall have the sole power to declare the existence of a state of war." Under Art. VII, Sec. 18, Congress may revoke or extend the President's military powers by "majority vote of all its Members, voting jointly."

Yet there are other provisions in the Constitution that also ambiguously prescribe the vote requirement when Congress discharges nonlegislative functions, as when, to take one example, it resolves a tie in the presidential election under Art. VII, Sec. 4.

I hope Father Bernas can invoke the records of the Constitutional Commission as a secondary or extrinsic aid in the interpretation of the ambiguous wording of its talkative handiwork. Such resort could support not "the letter that killeth but the spirit that vivifieth" and uphold the more reasonable position of the Senate.

Fighting truth decay

MOMENTS



Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY is told about a patient who was writhing in pain, and so he asked his doctor's help. After some thought, the doctor said: "OK, I'll give you morphine," in response to which the patient cried out: "No, doctor, I want less pain, not more pain!"

* * *

In today's Gospel (Mt. 18, 15-20), Jesus urges us to practice fraternal correction, which puts both the object and the agent in an uncomfortable and even painful situation. The truth hurts, but hiding the truth will hurt more. As with tooth decay, we must deal with truth decay in a radical way. We do not put fillings into a rotten tooth. No matter how painful, we first must drill and bore into the tooth to remove the tooth decay and, if necessary, remove the tooth itself.

* * *

As in tooth decay, the very first requirement for the removal of truth decay is the opening of the mouth. Let the truth come out. Evidence has to be presented. Issues must be discussed. If this process is stopped, then the truth will be hidden, but only for a while. Yes, truth can be stopped, but truth, like water, seeks its own level. The truth will surely come out in the end. And when it does, the question we all should ask ourselves is: was I in truth's side? Did I help bring out the truth, or did I help hide the truth?

* * *

Did you hear the story about a mother who heard her 8-year-old saying: "2 + 2, sonama witch is 4." The next day, the mother confronted the teacher for teaching her child bad words. "No, no, no. It's 2 + 2, the sum of which is 4," was the teacher's reply.

I don't know about you, but I feel like saying bad words whenever people begin to treat the truth as if it were merely a numbers game. How could a few suppress the truth and stop the truth from coming out? Do they actually believe that they can just because they have the numbers? On the same count, do we just hide the truth under the rug for the sake of practicality, utility, or expediency?

* * *

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us: "If he refuses to listen to them, tell the church. If he refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector." In our present-day worsening political crisis which is affecting our nation, there are two sides of the coin: some people are not listening hard enough to the church, or maybe the church is not speaking loud enough.

* * *

In today's Gospel, too, Jesus says that "if two of you agree on earth about anything for which you are to pray, it shall be granted to you by my Heavenly Father." Dear reader, after you read this paragraph, please stop, and agree with me, pray with me that the Father may hear our prayers and help us solve the problems in our land. In particular, let us pray that the truth will come out, so that we can all move on. In Jesus' mighty name. Amen!

* * *

Let us ask Mama Mary, especially on her birthday, Sept. 8, that she may lead us into ways and situations that will eventually bring about lasting peace and unity in our land. Let us turn to the Blessed Mother, regardless of faith, to engage in a day of intense prayer on Sept. 12 at the Carmelite Monastery of Lipa. Yes, let us all turn to God in prayer, and let us also listen to Him, for His instructions and marching orders.

I just came back from a retreat with the clergy of Urdaneta under the leadership of Msgr. Marlo Peralta. In one of our sharings, Msgr. Art Aquino said something that struck me. He said, "With God, everything happens in His time. But with Mama Mary, everything happens in your time." He made us realize that Mama Mary waits for us. She encourages, she prods, she prays and when we are ready, rest assured, she will be there for us.

* * *

Mayor Gabriel Navarro called me to order "Heartfelt Moments" tapes and CDs for distribution to schools in Bani, Pangasinan so that the schoolchildren would learn values through the songs of the 12-year-old blind girl Fatima Soriano. He said it was his birthday gift to Mama Mary. Under this ex-seminarian's watch, Bani is *jueteng*-free and *ecology*-friendly. Yes, we have good people around, it is possible to be good; and in the Philippines, soon, very soon, victory will be for the good.

* * *

See you on Sept. 11 at the Ultra for "A Day of Healing with Jesus through Mama Mary" (8 a.m.-4 p.m.) with the Korean visionary Julia Kim. Admission is free.

* * *

Sometime ago, my brother Manong Oscar shared with me this thought: Just as children ask their parents or their elders, *"Di ba bad yon?"* (Isn't is bad?) whenever they encounter something bad or wrong, so we, too, adults must never stop raising this question. Yes, let us not stop asking questions. Let us not give rest to the wicked.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me to help stop truth decay, no matter how painful it would be for me to do so. Amen.

'The soldiers are watching'

IN AN INTERVIEW with ABS-CBN news channel (ANC), Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, former AFP chief of staff, commenting on the recent House Justice Committee hearings, declared that from the sidelines "the soldiers are watching and at some time they will decide whether our institutions are worth dying for." More than 10 years ago, on the occasion of Constitution Day in 1988, Biazon asked the question, "Are we giving our soldiers institutions worth dying for?" The coming weeks and months will provide the answer.

When soldiers are quiet, it does not mean they are satisfied with the status quo. They are silent because this is part of the discipline under which they operate. But when the time comes to speak, they will be heard, loud and clear. As someone put it, "governance is too complex to be left alone to the politicians, especially the irresponsible and the corrupt."

* * *

A few days ago, I had an interesting chat with a young army captain, a veteran of campaigns against secessionist forces in the south. He was born and grew up in one of the most war-ravaged provinces of Mindanao. After a while, his family moved out and settled down in Iloilo where he pursued his dream of becoming a cadet at the Philippine Military Academy. He graduated in 1993 and after a few years, he was assigned to the province of his birth, which was experiencing a resurgence of rebel activity and lawlessness.

A week after reporting for duty, he visited his hometown and noticed a lovely young girl getting off a tricycle near the town plaza. He immediately wangled an introduction which was arranged by relatives. It turned out the young lady lived just a few meters away from his old family residence. To make a long story short, love blossomed, they got married and they are now expecting their second child—the classic case of a boy falling in love with the girl next door and realizing she was there all the time for him. Sometimes people go to the ends of the earth but they never find what they are looking for. I promised the young man I would not reveal his name.

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

* * *

Quote of the week: "I need him to survive. He takes care of the media and the bishops." This was the reported reply of the President when the name of Efraim Genuino, chair of Pagcor, was brought up as an example of people who should be replaced because of perceptions, right or wrong, that they were using their agencies for the interest of the Arroyos. This will probably go down in history as one of the more memorable quotes from the Arroyo presidency, much like Sen. Jose Avelino's "What are we in power for?" Hmm...I must be playing golf with the wrong crowd.

* * *

Did you know that a number of lieutenants and captains in the armed forces are now taking up nursing during their off-hours? In the past, most officers would be taking law, an MBA, or possibly accounting in preparation for the future. Now, nursing is becoming the choice for a possible second career after the military. I am reminded that recently some 1,471 out of 2,864 candidates passed the medical board examinations. How many of these new doctors will soon be switching to nursing?

* * *

On the oil crisis—has anyone come across the article of Fareed Zakaria in the Aug. 20 issue of Newsweek? It is titled "How to Escape the Oil Trap." Zakaria points out that last year the United States consumed 20.4 million barrels of oil a day with demand rising. He explains this is so not only because of strong growth but also because "American cars—which guzzle the bulk of oil imports—are much less efficient than they used to be. This is the only area of the American economy in which we have become less energy efficient than we were twenty years ago. And we are the only industrialized country to have slid backward in this way. There's one reason: SUVs (Special Utility Vehicles). They made up 5% of the American fleet in 1990. They make up almost 54% today."

Instead of proposing bicycle lanes and issuing worn-out reminders to conserve energy by shutting down air conditioners in government offices, have we made a similar study of fuel consumption by motor vehicles in the country? And of these cars, how many are SUVs? We tend to follow the American pattern so I am pretty sure we have a substantial number of these vehicles. Why don't we ban all these gas guzzlers from the road? Anyway, it is usually the affluent class that use them, in addition to one or more smaller vehicles. They can well afford to keep them in the garage.

Maybe people in the transportation and energy departments can look into this area for possible oil conservation. Also, whenever I travel along Edsa, I notice that there are hundreds of empty buses going in both directions. Can we not come up with a more efficient transport system to avoid so much waste and environmental pollution? The Land Transportation Office and the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board should get together and come up with creative ideas to tackle this problem. Some drastic, temporary measures are needed to be put in place as we confront unprecedented increases in the price of crude oil.

Zakaria ends with a line that perhaps mirrors our own situation. He indicates that what may be lacking is not so much the technologies for more efficient cars but the leadership and the vision needed to confront the energy problem.

* * *

Speaking of oil, last week, I became as old as the price of a barrel of crude. We continue to count our blessings, the greatest of which is having by our side a great commander-in-chief who marks her birthday today. Happy birthday, Penny!

Two men of vision and spirit

MATIUR Rahman is the editor of the Bangladeshi newspaper Prothom Alo (First Light), which is now the country's largest-circulation daily and a most credible voice on politics and social issues. Jon Ungphakorn sits in the Senate of Thailand, giving voice to minorities and other oppressed citizens who wish to bring their entreaties to the government's attention.

What do the two men have in common? For starters, they are both crusaders and idealists, living up to the tradition of "greatness of spirit in service to the people" that underlies the Ramon Magsaysay Awards, of which the two are among this year's laureates. (The other awardees are Teten Masduki from Indonesia and Dr. V. Shanta from India for Public Service, Sombath Somphone from Laos for Community Leadership, and Hye-Ran Yoon from Korea for Emergent Leadership.)

Rahman, the awardee for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts, was recognized for his newspaper's crusade against acid-throwing, a heinous crime that not only disfigures its victims but also leads to their ostracism and isolation. Rahman was cited for "wielding the power of the press" not just to call for an end to acid-throwing, but also to respond to the victims' needs for medical attention, social amelioration and even skills training.

Ungphakorn has his roots in activism and advocacy in behalf of Thailand's HIV/AIDS community, addressing the "misunderstanding and stigma" that blighted the lives of thousands of Thais who had been infected with the virus, and helping people living with HIV/AIDS assert their right to access to medical support and medicine. In his work as a senator from Bangkok, Ungphakorn has also lent his visibility to the promotion and protection of the human rights of minorities, particularly of Muslims living in southern Thailand.

* * *

I MET with the two men this week in two separate occasions: at the public lecture given by Rahman where I was a discussant; and at a meeting (hosted by the Remedios AIDS Foundation) among Ungphakorn, representatives of NGOs working on health and HIV/AIDS issues, as well as the PLWHA (People Living With HIV/AIDS) community.

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"A symbol of hope" is how Rahman describes Prothom Alo, which was founded in 1998 and quickly rose to become the most respected and biggest selling daily in Bangladesh, thanks largely to its reputation for fearless reporting. "We, the journalists at Prothom Alo, are aware of the duties that are linked to our profession," Rahman said. "We will make efforts to eradicate the social, political and economic impediments that hinder our progress; we are aware of our role in our advancement. Today, the role of the newspaper is even more crucial in the progress of the nation. We remain alert, so that our actions may expedite (that) advancement."

Though Prothom Alo engages in a number of advocacies, the newspaper is best known for its crusade against acid-throwing.

While this horrific crime has been committed elsewhere (including one known case here), its incidence has been growing alarmingly in Bangladesh. At first, acid-throwing was commonly directed at young women by spurned or embarrassed suitors, but recently it has been directed as well at men and children as a result of land disputes or quarrels among neighbors. Galvanized by the fate of a 15-year-old girl in 2000, Rahman decided to go from reporting the crime to ending it. In daily editorials, Rahman "declared war on acid throwers" and established the Prothom Alo Aid Fund for acid victims. Spurred by strong public response, Rahman also began lobbying the government to strengthen laws against acid attacks and regulate the sale of dangerous chemicals. Today, he reports, the incidence of acid-throwing in Bangladesh has begun to abate.

I had first wondered why Rahman felt such a strong personal commitment to the issue until I found out from his bio-data that his wife, Maleka Begum, is a writer and women's rights activist who once headed, as Rahman proudly declared, Bangladesh's largest women's organization. Meeting as student activists pursuing progressive causes, Rahman and Begum have not only remained married for more than 30 years, they have also "married" their personal and professional causes, helping save the lives of the victims of a heinous and inhuman crime.

* * *

THOUGH his battle with throat cancer makes it difficult for Sen. Jon Ungphakorn to talk loudly and for long periods, his commitment to human rights, international solidarity and the community of people living with and working on HIV/AIDS could not be any clearer.

From a career in academe as a lecturer at Mahidol University, Ungphakorn helped midwife Thailand's civil society by founding the Thai Volunteer Service in 1980, sending university students to exposure trips in impoverished rural areas and helping NGOs manage and fund their projects. In 1991, he founded the AIDS-Access Foundation, promoting the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS and helping build an advocacy network through the NGO Coalition on AIDS.

In 2000, after the new Thai constitution opened the Senate, a largely advisory body, to elections, Ungphakorn decided to run for office. He attributes his victory (landing 18th among the 18 senators from Bangkok) to three factors: "people living with HIV/AIDS and their families, the NGOs and civil society, and my father's reputation." (His father, Puey Ungphakorn, is also a Magsaysay awardee and recognized as an "enlightened architect of the modern Thai state.")

Today, as a member of the Senate's social development and human security committee, Ungphakorn continues to speak out on human rights issues, lending his fragile but powerful voice to the work of creating a more equitable Thailand.

Gloria's 'truth'

MANY truths about our lives and the world largely pass unnoticed. But, in our country, the one truth that agitates almost everyone except, maybe, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her allies, is in whether she conspired with former Elections Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano to manipulate the results of the last presidential election. This is the truth insinuated by the "Hello Garci" tapes. The events suggested by the tapes seem to be confirmed by the hundreds of manifestly fabricated precinct election returns from areas in which Ms Arroyo won heavily. This is the same truth now coming out in the statements of political operators who worked for Ms Arroyo in the last election.

On June 27 this year, the beleaguered President went on national television to "set the record straight" about these wiretapped conversations. She admitted calling "a Comelec official" during the canvassing period, but only to "protect" her votes, not to cheat. She said that she has realized that doing so was improper, and she was apologizing to the nation for this "lapse in judgment." Ms Arroyo did not identify the Comelec official; neither did she give an account of the nature of these conversations.

In subsequent media interviews, Ms Arroyo refused to answer any question about Garcillano or about the tapes, invoking her "right as an accused" to remain silent on matters that could incriminate her. Instead of putting all doubts about the 2004 election to rest, such behavior has only heightened skepticism over her claim to the presidency. It has, as the surveys have shown, definitely eroded her credibility as the nation's highest public official.

Aware that she is waging a battle for survival on two fronts—the political and the legal—she has gone on a media blitz to sidestep the truth claims of the Garci tapes, and she has mobilized all her connections to prevent the impeachment complaint against her from progressing. This double maneuver is quite interesting and worth analyzing for the contradictions it tries to manage.

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

To kill the impeachment case at the committee level, it became necessary for her allies in the House to resort to absurd interpretations of the law in order to bar the amended complaint filed by the impeachment group. Using the force of numbers, Gloria's allies slammed the door to any attempt to bring in the truth. When the committee reports its action to the entire House next week, that door will be permanently sealed for one year, unless 79 members physically present can be herded into the chamber to keep it open.

Gloria's problem is this: The more her allies succeed in preventing the amended complaint from being heard, the more she appears to be scared of the truth. It gets her off the hook legally, but it only further disgraces her politically. What good does it do that she avoids being impeached, but loses her moral right to govern? That is the question.

In the last analysis, the real battle is the political one. Gloria knows this, and she is determined to prevail in it, too. But here the terrain is less easy to manage. The weapon of choice is rhetoric, not money; one has to speak in a credible, consistent and convincing voice.

The objective is straightforward: To persuade the public that talking about fraud in the 2004 election is meaningless and unproductive. We may call it Gloria's "truth." She has articulated it in so many ways on various occasions that one is tempted to formulate it as her credo.

Talking about fraud, she says, is meaningless for two reasons. First, because in the kind of political culture we have, every politician is bound to be tainted by accusations of cheating that are never proven. Every politician also knows that cheating at different levels and in varying degrees happens in every election. It is part of the political environment and every candidate is expected to factor it into his own campaign. What matters is that one wins "fair and square" in a manner confirmed by international observers and independent surveys. Second, because there is a proper venue for resolving electoral disputes. For the positions of president and vice president, that is the Presidential Electoral Tribunal, and the PET has already ruled unanimously to dismiss the protest of the late Fernando Poe Jr. In short, we are now past that point.

Gloria's truth says that revisiting the 2004 election is not only moot but also unproductive. It resolves nothing and yields nothing positive. It only distracts and divides the nation at a time when we need most to come together to respond to the challenge of poverty, spiraling oil prices and the perennial debt problem. She suggests that we focus on reforming our political system in order to remove the gridlocks and obstacles that hamper our economic growth. Charter change is the answer to our problems, not impeachment.

Inertia is no doubt on Gloria's side. Those who have given up the aspiration to remove the stain of corruption and dishonesty from our national life will find it easy to accept Gloria's "truth." For the rest of us who refuse to give up, it would be necessary—if we are to sustain our hopes—to keep hammering on the truths that allow us to dismantle the old culture and build a new nation. Gloria and her kind of truth exemplify the most durable components of that old culture.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Quo vadis, Filipino?

TWO recent articles, published in the INQUIRER, are worth pondering as our country faces another turning point in the first decade of the 21st century. The first is a news item on the forum "Truth Telling and National Healing," which was sponsored by the Honor Society of the Phi Kappa Phi and the College of Arts and Letters, both of the University of the Philippines-Diliman. (PDI, 8/12/05)

As the welcome remarks to that forum put it: our country is now drowning in a sea of voices—shrill and strident staccato of opinions, views, advocacies. Untempered, these voices easily become an overpowering noise that can obstruct the truth that we all long to hear and uphold. There is the nagging noise of corruption that has bedeviled Philippine democracy since the Americans brought us into their game. The crime of the hour is a combination of high technology and the proletariat game of numbers—wiretapping and the poor man's winning fantasy, *jueteng* and its illegal gambits. Each of these weaves its own story, and its own truth. Regrettably, for the major issues of respectability and its lack (*jueteng* payoffs), credibility (wiretapping) and accountability (wiretapping, again), the tale could become so convoluted as the level of one's commitment to find the truth increases. The trouble is that, issues—not related to the one that brought the catharsis of the hour—tend to pile up. New formulas are peddled like a Band-Aid or balm applied to a malignant sore.

COMMENTARY

Natalia M.L.M Morales

Tried but failed paths are tirelessly proffered—people power, impeachment and Charter change. Interestingly, these are paths whose currency has been making the rounds of Philippine "issuedom" for more than a generation. Talk of Charter change and we had that in the '70s when we shifted to parliamentary governance (but alas, under a dictatorship we could not overcome for a long time). People Power seemed to have lost its magic, with Cory Aquino's July 8 demand to a beleaguered President getting a thud of indifference from a tired nation. Isms and blueprints have been rapidly produced (and sauced up in the media) by social elements who have very little track record in national governance. But democracy, Philippine-style creates both noise and gall, even nerves. Because that's how the noise projects our democracy to be—without limits, even extending beyond the borders of unreasonableness and unworkability.

The second article is a feature on National Artist F. Sionil Jose. (PDI, 8/15/05) Like many writers and artists, he edifies the Philippine soul. Only that, to his view, the Filipino soul is not wounded enough. Sionil Jose attributes the slack in real and credible progress in our society to the absence of a serious civil war (revolution) that should wrench us from the national paralysis of complacency and fatalism and from the causes that brought us to this dire state. But reality in present-day Philippines lacks the element for a civil war breaking out at this time. We could have had it in the '50s or '60s, when socialism and communism were still effective battle cries. But that was also the period when—despite some cynicism from the learned and ideologically bent—we were doing comparatively well economically—our neighbor-countries were still grappling for their political framework and doubtful of their economic future. The '50s saw South Korea coming out of an ideological war; Taiwan was terrified by the ominous onslaught of Chinese communism; and analysts labeled South Korea and Taiwan as the fragile economies least likely to succeed in the Asian region! The mid-'60s saw Singapore break off from Malaysia and battle the communists in its midst.

The Philippines, too, had economic problems—parity rights, import substitution and the Hukbalahap insurgency. But these did not go over our heads. Our democracy, fledgling and defective for sure, somehow worked—and was convincingly explained by indigenous Filipino theories, such as "bayanicracy," and "bayanikasan" (from *bayanihan*, or working together).

The minimal bloodshed in the two People Power revolt proves that Filipinos lack the spirit to inflict violence on fellow Filipinos—except when drunk with power, and that's where trouble starts. The marked violence in Philippine politics, outside the framework of our organic unity—affects our political, economic and most especially psychological selves—like we are losing the sense of who we are and what we want. This is wreaking havoc because we believe that there is only one political game—to be on top, making orders, cornering deals. Very little monitoring and reckoning take place. If one's allies are involved in a rotten game, there is always a way of coming out clean, or so it seems. Technology, information control and manipulation, time, human and resource management are easily at the ploy of the power-that-be. If one thinks he has the truth or the real story, wait till suppression of vital data or re-ordering of agenda and issues hits him into forced silence and into succumbing to the march of events beyond his control.

In the Phi Kappa Phi forum discussant, Dr. Michael Tan (INQUIRER columnist) talked of the lack of memory-keeping among Filipinos. This elicited a comment from a participant in the audience, a Mr. Encarnacion, a businessman dabbling in Philippine history. He said he believes that the National Historical Institute is a repository of dead facts, piling up fossils of events that give us clues as to why we behave this way as a people. These are boners, unpursued and unhealed, because the victims were on the wrong side of the power game. Andres Bonifacio, Antonio Luna, Gregorio del Pilar and their ilk were villains to the powers-that-be of their time but heroes to our generation. Somewhere the name of Emilio Aguinaldo gets blurted; in what context, only serious students of Philippine history understand.

As a Christian nation, even the prototype warrior of a Filipino becomes a victim of deleted memory that succumbs to the rules of the power game.

Healing must follow. Can we be healed, individually and collectively, as citizens and leaders of our fair, beloved Philippines, in the context of a recurring social malady? As Dr. Honey Carandang, in her lecture that day said, we all have to tell our story. Telling it like it is may heal. But only when we learn to avoid the same pain, hurt and tragedy over and over. But that is another story. Quo vadis, Filipino?

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Giving up Gaza

AFTER 38 years of occupation, Israel began last month a unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, a territory it captured during the Six-Day War. The Israeli Army closed down 21 Jewish settlements in Gaza and four settlements in the West Bank, displacing some 9,100 residents, a number of whom had to be bodily removed by soldiers.

As part of the pullout, the Israeli Army destroyed all the structures in the settlements save for the greenhouses in Gaza.

Among those who voluntarily left Gaza were Filipino workers who tended the greenhouses, growing tomatoes, mangoes and other produce. The Filipinos were part of a group of Asians brought in after the Palestinian uprising in 2000.

The architect of the pullout is Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. It was Sharon who devised the plan to put up Jewish settlements in Gaza after Israel captured the territory in 1967.

Sharon said the pullout from Gaza was crucial to the Jewish state's survival. Defending the isolated settlements had been costly for Israel. The Jewish communities in Gaza had been constantly under attack from Palestinians, who outnumber the settlers by more than a million.

Although Sharon is disengaging from Gaza, he is planning to expand Jewish control over the West Bank and is building a security wall along the territory—two moves that would undermine the dream of Palestinian statehood.

Restarting the peace process amid these developments is in the interest of the world community.

- **Land area of the Gaza Strip:** 360 sq km
- **Population:** Palestinians, 1.3 million; Jews, about 8,500 settlers (before the pullout).
- **Historical background:** Gaza and the coastal towns to its north, for most of the years between 1250 BC and AD 135—the era in which Jews lived in and often ruled the land of Israel—eluded firm Israelite or Judean control.

In antiquity, Gaza was part of Biblical Pleshet or Philistia—the domain of the Philistines, a non-Semitic "sea people" hailing from the Greek Isles who probably invaded and settled along the coast in the 12th century BC (more or less simultaneous with the arrival in the Holy Land of the Hebrews from the east).

From their towns of Gaza, Ashkelon and Jaffa, the Philistines controlled the coastal plain from 1150 BC to 586 BC and intermittently challenged Jewish rule over the inland hill country. Philistia was conquered (along with Judea) by the Babylonians in 586 BC and the Philistines were exiled and vanished from history.

In the second century AD, after having quashed a Jewish revolt, the Roman rulers renamed the land of Israel—in order to de-Judaize it—Palestina (a derivative of Philistia).

They thus gave the Arabs, who were to arrive on the scene five centuries later, the name they were to adopt.

- **Brief history of conflict:** For centuries Palestinian Arabs, Christians and Jews had lived in harmony in Palestine.

But then, in the late 1800s a group in Europe, known as "Zionists," decided to go to Palestine to create a Jewish homeland.

At first, the immigration of Jews created no problems. However, as more and more Zionists immigrated into Palestine following the Holocaust, the indigenous Arab population became increasingly alarmed. Eventually, fighting erupted between the two groups.

In 1947, the United Nations decided to intervene. The UN set aside 55 percent of Palestine for a Jewish state—although the Jews represented only about 30 percent of the total population and owned less than 7 percent of the land.

By the end of the 1948 war, the Jewish state—having declared itself "Israel"—had conquered 78 percent of Palestine—far more than that proposed by the UN partition plan. As a result, three-quarters of a million Palestinians had been made refugees.

Areas that were not incorporated into Israel became part of neighboring countries. Jordan took over the control of the West Bank and Egypt administered the Gaza Strip.

In 1967, Israel gained more land. Following the Six-Day War, Israel occupied the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Palestinians were again forced to leave the area. Israel also occupied the Sinai, which was later returned to Egypt, and the Golan Heights.

- **Greater Israel:** Devout Jews believe that Gaza and the West Bank were God-given and that it was their mission to live there as part of Greater Israel. The term refers to the extension of the state of Israel from the Mediterranean Sea to the Jordan River.
- **Reasons for pullout:** Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said that an Israeli pullout from Gaza was crucial for the Jewish state's survival. His spokesperson, Ranaan Gissin, said: "Sharon envisages territorial exchanges with the Palestinians as part of future permanent arrangements, under which Arab Israeli localities would pass under the sovereignty of the latter, while Jewish settlements (in the West Bank) would be integrated into Israeli territory."

Sharon said: "The significance of the Disengagement Plan is not only the evacuation of the Gaza Strip—it is also an increased effort to develop the Negev, the Galilee and greater Jerusalem. The Government of Israel, which I head, considers developing the Negev, the Galilee and greater Jerusalem a primary national mission—and views settlement as the No. 1 tool for doing so."

- **US President George W. Bush's reaction:** He said the Gaza pullout would be good for Israel because "the previous system wasn't working... I think in the long run two states living side by side in peace is the ultimate solution for Israel's security." He added: "I think this will create an opportunity for democracy to emerge and democracies are peaceful."
- **Reaction of Islamic extremists:** Hamas and Islamic Jihad celebrated the pullout as the first of the many victories to come against Israel.
- **Compensation:** The approved compensation package sets aside just under $1 billion to pay settlers for their homes, land, businesses and resettlement. Each family will be paid according to a formula that weighs the size of their household, the square footage of their home, the length of time they lived in Gaza, their salaries and the area where they are moving, among other factors.

For instance, a family of four living in the Gush Katif settlement area for nine years in a house on a 1,500-square-foot plot could receive about $230,000, officials said.

The total cost of withdrawal is expected to be about $1.6 billion. When presented to parliament in November, the compensation bill was estimated at between $450 million and $650 million.

- **Intifada:** An Arabic word for "shaking off," it also means abrupt and waking up from sleep. Politically the word symbolizes the Palestinian uprising against Israel. The first *intifada* began on Dec. 8, 1987 when four Palestinian men queuing at a checkpoint in Gaza were crushed to death by an Israeli army transporter. The second intifada started on Sept. 28, 2000 when Israeli soldiers killed 4 people at the al-Aqsa Mosque.

More than 900 people were killed in attacks carried out by Palestinians since late September 2000. In almost all of the cases, the attackers infiltrated from Palestinian areas in the West Bank.

- **Security fence:** As a result of the unceasing attacks, Israel decided to erect a physical barrier. The absence of such a barrier makes infiltration into Israeli communities a relatively easy task for Palestinian fighters. No attackers have infiltrated from the Gaza Strip into Israel in recent years because an electronic security fence already exists there.
- **Cost of the security fence:** The cost of the entire fence is approximately $1.6 million per mile and, when completed, is expected to have cost about $1 billion.
- **Oslo Accords:** The accords, officially called the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, were finalized in Oslo, Norway by Aug. 20, 1993. They were signed at a public ceremony in Washington D.C. on Sept. 13, 1993 with Mahmoud Abbas signing for the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Shimon Peres signing for Israel. It was witnessed by Warren Christopher for the United States and Andrei Kozyrev for Russia, in the presence of US President Bill Clinton, Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chair Yasser Arafat.

Under the accords, the West Bank and Gaza were to become a Palestinian state.

The Oslo Accords were a culmination of a series of secret and public agreements, dating particularly from the Madrid Conference of 1991 onwards, and were negotiated between the Israeli government and the PLO (acting as representatives of the Palestinian people) in 1993 as part of a peace process trying to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In 2000, Clinton sought to keep the Oslo peace process moving forward by convening a summit between Arafat and Barak to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This Camp David 2000 Summit ended in failure. The al-Aqsa intifada that started in 2000 following the collapse of the summit added to the crumbling of the credibility of the Oslo Accords, to the point that by 2003 the right wing in Israel, and Palestinian Islamic groups such as Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah considered the accords dead. Israel refused to deal with Arafat, considered a terrorist by the government of Sharon.

In this climate, much of 2001, 2002 and early 2003 saw an escalation of violence by Palestinian suicide bombers and the military re-occupation of the West Bank by the Israel Defense Forces that made further discussions unlikely.

Compiled by PDI Research

Sources: "Palestinians are on the right side of history" by Benny Morris, professor of History at Ben-Gurion University in Beersheba, Israel. International Herald Tribune, Aug. 25, 2005; www.poica.org; usinfo.state.gov; www.mfa.gov.il; en.wikipedia.org; www.washingtonpost.com; "Saving Lives: Israel's Security Fence." Israel Information Center. November 2003; www.palestinepmc.com; and www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org

Communities evacuated by Jewish settlers

Gaza Strip

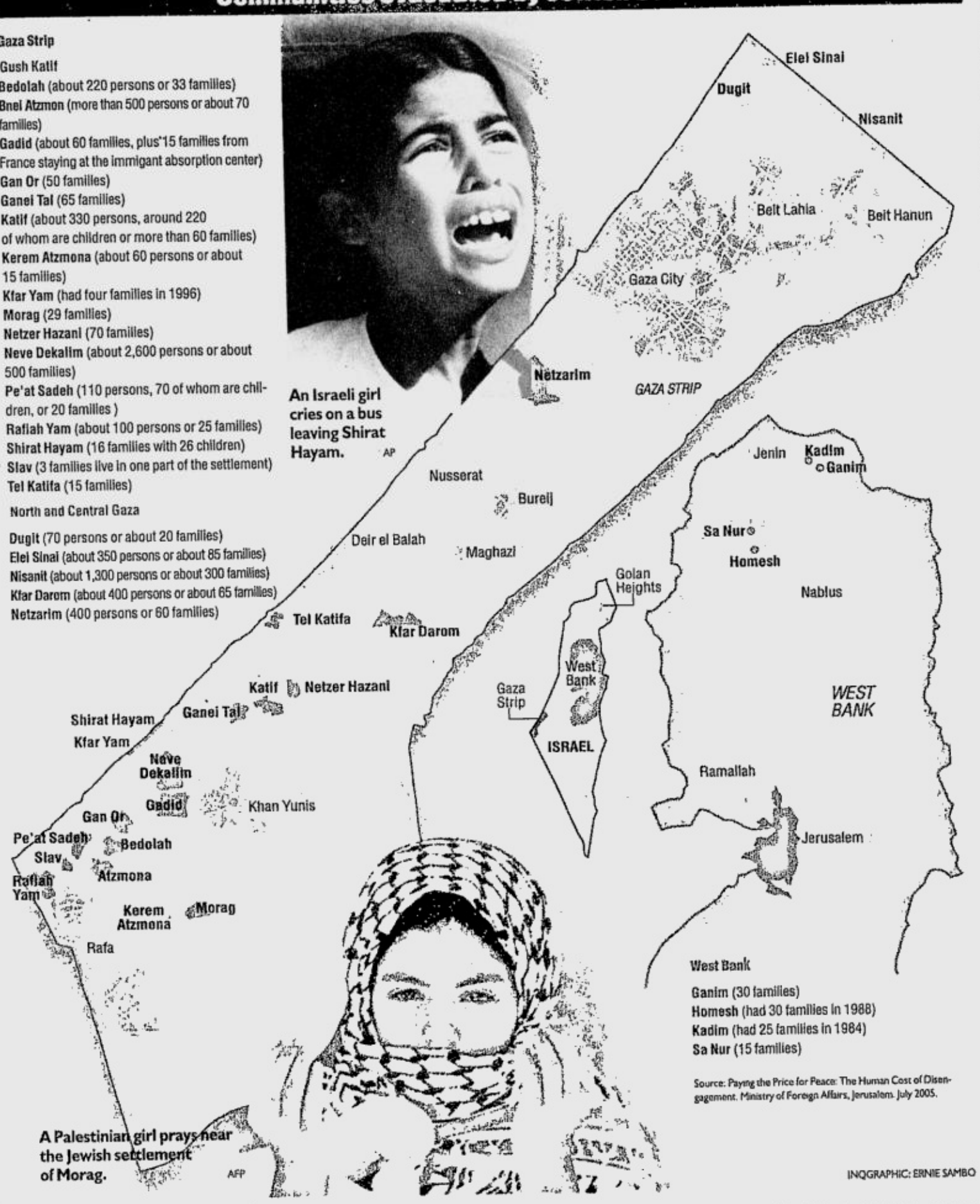
Gush Katif
Bedolah (about 220 persons or 33 families)
Bnei Atzmon (more than 500 persons or about 70 families)
Gadid (about 60 families, plus 15 families from France staying at the immigant absorption center)
Gan Or (50 families)
Ganei Tal (65 families)
Katif (about 330 persons, around 220 of whom are children or more than 60 families)
Kerem Atzmona (about 60 persons or about 15 families)
Kfar Yam (had four families in 1996)
Morag (29 families)
Netzer Hazani (70 families)
Neve Dekalim (about 2,600 persons or about 500 families)
Pe'at Sadeh (110 persons, 70 of whom are children, or 20 families)
Rafiah Yam (about 100 persons or 25 families)
Shirat Hayam (16 families with 26 children)
Slav (3 families live in one part of the settlement)
Tel Katifa (15 families)

North and Central Gaza

Dugit (70 persons or about 20 families)
Elei Sinai (about 350 persons or about 85 families)
Nisanit (about 1,300 persons or about 300 families)
Kfar Darom (about 400 persons or about 65 families)
Netzarim (400 persons or 60 families)

An Israeli girl cries on a bus leaving Shirat Hayam. AP

A Palestinian girl prays near the Jewish settlement of Morag. AFP



West Bank

Ganim (30 families)
Homesh (had 30 families in 1988)
Kadim (had 25 families in 1984)
Sa Nur (15 families)

Source: Paying the Price for Peace: The Human Cost of Disengagement. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jerusalem. July 2005.

INQGRAPHIC: ERNIE SAMBO

Pinoys also leave

NETZARIM, Gaza Strip—Like the Jewish settlers who employ him, Filipino farm worker John Abrazaldo wants to stay in the occupied Gaza Strip—where he earns nearly four times as much as he could back home.

But unlike the Israelis, Abrazaldo was packing up on Aug. 12 in the isolated enclave of Netzarim ahead of the evacuation of settlements, starting Aug. 17, under Israel's plan for "disengagement."

"I want to stay. We are happy to stay although we are sometimes afraid," said Abrazaldo, 28, from a small town in Luzon.

"The Arabs send missiles over here and we have to run to the shelter," he said, gesturing to a large concrete bomb shelter near the shipping containers where he and 15 other Filipino, Thai and Nepali workers have lived, some for up to three years.

Many Asians were brought in after the start of the Palestinian uprising in 2000, when Israeli closures ruled out the use of cheap labor living within walking distance.

Abrazaldo's group earned 91 shekels ($20) a day each, almost four times what he could hope to earn in the Philippines, he said.

"They treat us like human beings, not as workers," he said of the settlers, who say the land is a biblical birthright and have vowed to resist removal. Rightists also say the pullout would reward Palestinian attacks.

Asians have played a key role in the farming greenhouses that dot some of the 21 Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip, growing tomatoes, mangoes and other produce.

Their presence, especially in Netzarim, underscores the risks Asian workers will take to earn more money.

Tina Jurado, 35, said her wage helped support her 10-year-old daughter back home in Manila. Despite the impending evacuation, she and three Nepali women were still tending young tomato plants in a sweltering greenhouse.

"I love the work, we have a place to sleep, but we don't know when the next bomb will land," she said.

Jurado said she might go to Tel Aviv to look for other work. *Reuters*

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Hopes for talks with Reds revived

HOPES that peace talks between the government and guerrillas who have been waging a Maoist rebellion for more than 20 years were revived after the two sides said yesterday they were open to restarting formal negotiations.

The statements came after the government reinstated security guarantees for guerrilla negotiators.

In a statement from exile in Utrecht, The Netherlands, Luis Jalandoni, chief negotiator for the Marxist umbrella organization National Democratic Front, welcomed the government's move to restore safeguards against arrest for 97 rebel negotiators and their staff.

In July, the NDF said it would wait for a new administration than continue talks with President Macapagal-Arroyo, who faces impeachment over vote-rigging charges.

The government responded by suspending the safety guarantees, giving the rebels 30-day notice in August.

"The prospects are brighter now...," said Rene Sarmiento, Ms Arroyo's chief adviser on the peace process.

Jalandoni said on Friday he received a letter from Sarmiento withdrawing the planned suspension—which would have gone into effect on Saturday.

"As regards to venue, date, agenda and mutual ceasefire of short duration, related to resumption and as gesture of goodwill, all these can be further discussed...," he said.

Norway, which has brokered the talks since February 2004, invited rebel and government representatives to Oslo on Aug. 28-30 for consultations on resuming formal talks.

Talks that had been scheduled for August 2004 were postponed by the NDF when Washington refused to remove the underground Communist Party of the Philippines from its list of terror organizations, as well as its armed wing and the party's founder, Jose Ma. Sison, who is also in self-exile in The Netherlands.

The guerrillas pledged to end their insurgency immediately if the government signs a proposed 10-point peace agreement, which they unveiled for the first time last Saturday.

The proposal includes forming "a clean and honest coalition government" but Sarmiento rejected the idea, saying the Constitution does not allow it.

Jalandoni said the NDF received a letter Sept. 2 from the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process informing the group that the security guarantees were being restored.

"We urge the government to oppose foreign interference and call on the US and other foreign governments to refrain from acts that impede or impair the peace negotiations," said Jalandoni.

On Saturday, the government negotiating team flew to Oslo to meet with NDF representatives.

Norberto Gonzales, Ms Arroyo's national security adviser, said the government was insisting on a ceasefire as a condition for the talks to resume. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau and Michael F. Sarcauga and Ryan D. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau with INQUIRER wires*

RISK TAKER LEONCIO BALBIN JR./PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

A boy rides in a swing attached to the back of a steel cart full of firewood for use for furnaces that make Vigan City's famous tiles and barns.

MNLF, gov't 1996 peace pact tagged a failure

COTABATO CITY—The peace agreement between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) failed to solve the rebellion in the Mindanao, Muslim leaders, including those from the MNLF, agreed.

Muslimin Sema, MNLF secretary general, described the agreement, which entered its ninth year on Friday, as a failure.

"The Filipino people, particularly the Bangsamoro people, should have been rejoicing right now... However, it was diluted by Congress. It was not properly implemented," Sema, also mayor of this city, said.

Sema said the MNLF has already asked the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to review the peace pact.

The OIC was key to the signing of the agreement by the MNLF then led by Nur Misuari.

Abhoud Syed Lingga, chair of the Bangsamoro Peoples Consultative Assembly, said a body should be formed to determine the extent of the agreement's implementation. *Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Basilan ferry death toll rises to 2

THE DEATH toll from last weekend's bomb explosion onboard a passenger ferry in Basilan has reached two, officials said yesterday.

Isnain Ormo, 30, died from burns he received when a bomb exploded on the passenger ferry Dona Ramona at the port of Lamitan, which was built with American aid money and formally opened recently by US officials, Basilan provincial police commander Abdulwahab Karimuddin said.

A 13-year-old boy died on Monday also from burns.

Karimuddin said nine people still remained on the critical list.

Security forces have largely blamed the terrorist group Abu Sayyaf for the blast which left 30 people injured—12 of them critically.

Karimuddin told reporters the investigation has been slow as many of the victims had not given statements.

"They are the only ones who can tell us what really happened," he said.

He would not say whether Abu Sayyaf was responsible for the blast.

The Abu Sayyaf, which security experts say has received support from Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, is known to operate in Lamitan, a mixed Muslim-Christian town.

Founded in the early 1990s, the group has degenerated into a criminal gang, specializing in kidnap-for-ransom and bomb attacks. *AFP*

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INQUIRER *Mindanao*

Protecting the lost volcano

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Davao City

IT COULD have been one perfect day to stay home and rest as the clouds masked the sun that Saturday morning. But the fine day failed to stop Ian Tiotingco.

For Tiotingco, 24, resisting the lure of a tempting idle day was nothing compared to the pleasure of finding and conquering the country's so called lost volcano, Mt. Tipolog in Barangay Tawan-Tawan in Baguio District.

'These reasons alone are enough for me to give up one good day and sweat myself up'

While Mt. Apo constantly earned the interest of mountaineers and environmentalists, and the disrespect of mainstream climbers, Mt. Tipolog is relatively unheard of by many.

This has served the mountain best which was a lot older than the country's highest mountain, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. No litter can be found along the trails of the mountain, unlike the ones that were scattered along the narrow pathways up Mt. Apo.

It was just recently that experts found out that Mt. Tipolog is actually a volcano following geological analysis. Through the study, the experts were able to find the crater of the mountain. These developments were the reasons Mt. Tipolog is now called the lost volcano.

"These reasons alone are enough for me to give up one good day and sweat myself up. Besides, this is more than just climbing Mt. Tipolog... this is my way of punching in a statement," Tiotingco said.

Tiotingco is a member of the group Kinaiyahan Amomahon, Ubanan ug Bantayan (Watching and protecting the environment) or Kauban Movement, a loose coalition of mountaineers from the ranks of school-based and community-based mountaineering groups.

SOME parts of Mt. Tipolog are still lush with thick forest. JEFFREY M. TUPAS

The bond of Kauban (companion or friend in Cebuano), is tightened by their common fight to protect and conserve environmentally critical areas of Davao City particularly rivers, watersheds and mountains.

They are in alliance with Panaghoy sa Kinaiyahan-Coalition for Mother Earth or Panaghoy (cry), also a coalition of concerned nongovernment organizations, people's organizations and individuals advocating the protection of nature against all forms of human and industrial destruction.

Kauban's battle recently pulled them together for the Tipolog Explore, an attempt of the group to attract public attention on the importance of the mountain and its environment.

The trek up the volcano's peak was a perilous attempt but Kauban members were determined to discover its remaining grandeur and make a difference by protecting it.

But any mountaineer trudging the death-inviting slopes of the mountain would be welcomed by surviving colorful ensemble of forest life—an indication that the mountain, although heavily battered by the greed of a few people in the past, is trying to revive itself.

The range of the mountain, which includes Mount Tunah, is still rich in biodiversity.

Tipolog Explore's concern is anchored, among others, on the fact that the Davao City Water District (DCWD) has identified the Mt. Tipolog watershed as its future source of drinking water. Forming part of the headwater of the Panigan and Tamugan Rivers is Mt. Tipolog.

A part of the Panigan River is already catching the runoff of chemically-dependent plantations.

Gideon Langad, an Obo-Manobo residing at the foot of the mountain, said he saw the destruction of the mountain which was known for its lush forest.

The large trees which used to crowd the mountain were the reasons the *lumad* (indigenous peoples) called it *tip'og* or Tipolog (lush forest). But as logging operations heightened three decades ago, the trees vanished leaving the lumad residents virtually with nothing but bald hills.

"Wala na kaayo'y kinabuhi nga makita sa taas (Not much life can be seen up there)," Langad said.

But the Kauban Movement knows that any attempt to resuscitate Mt. Tipolog and defending it against any attempt to destroy it are worth all the effort.

Recently, the DCWD announced its effort to rehabilitate the Mt. Tipolog watershed, along with the Tamugan watershed, betting on its huge potential to supply water in the future.

All efforts to protect the watersheds of Davao have also gained the support of Mayor Rodrigo Duterte who issued an order to stop the expansion operations of banana and pineapple plantations of transnational and local agricultural corporations.

The city council, through the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, has proposed a resolution imposing a moratorium on the expansion by January next year "while the issue of delineation is being resolved."

But the Kauban and other environmental groups want the moratorium sooner than later.

"These companies can do a lot of things, like expand their plantations, in two weeks... how much more with four months?" said Malou Rebarbas, adviser of student group Youth Advocates for the Watershed (YAH_2O).

"Attacks against the environment must stop. Let us give mother nature a rest," Rebarbas said.

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Last man alive who saw Yamashita surrender

From page A1

Antonio Dunuan (long deceased), decided to go back to their village up in the hills to scrounge for food.

On their way home, the two spotted the meeting between Yamashita and his corps of generals with a group of American officers of lower rank.

"I saw them exchange salutes, with the American officer lowering his hand first," Pahigon recalled.

He said the legendary general wore what looked like an *amerikana* (suit) but no hat. "Only his right hand" officers were in military uniform.

He said the encounter took place in Sitio Longa, and that he and his companion were standing "20 to 30 meters" away from the scene.

Asked how he knew it was Yamashita, Pahigon said word of the Japanese surrender had spread earlier that day and no other group of enemy officers could have walked out into the open that way.

REM ZAMORA

REPLICA of the Instrument of Surrender signed by Yamashita 60 years ago at the official US ambassador's Residence inside Camp John Hay in Baguio City. Virginia Foster, curator of the Historical Collections of the US Embassy in the Philippines, shows the document to the media.

REM ZAMORA

WAS OR wasn't he? Pahigon, in his house on stilts overlooking terraced rice paddies, insists he witnessed that historic moment of the end of World War II in the Philippines.

Videotaped at last

Before the events leading up to last Friday's commemoration, nobody bothered to write down—or verify—Pahigon's account. It was simply passed on orally.

The municipal government finally felt the urgency to record what's left of Pahigon's tattered narrative early last month, when he was asked to narrate what he could remember on videotape.

Also interviewed were two aging Ifugao warriors Ampagay and Habawil who were featured for their war exploits.

Nilo Manangan, the interviewer and executive assistant to town Mayor Albert Indunan, said the video would be added to the town's documentary material on the role of Kiangan's Ifugaos in WWII. Unfortunately, most of them had already died without being registered as war veterans entitled to pensions.

Pahigon was in his 30s during the war and fought with the paramilitary "bolo-men" who also served as spies and couriers for guerrilla or regular army units, Manangan said.

In the INQUIRER interview, Pahigon said he only finished Grade 7 and was a public works laborer based in Baguio City when the war broke out. After Liberation, he worked with the Balatoc Mines and then retired to become a farmer.

In the video, Manangan said, Pahigon recalled some images from the "surrender" scene. The Ifugao elder said the first to salute was the American captain. Yamashita returned the salute, but it was the American, being of lower rank, who was the first to lower his hand.

What was clear in both the INQUIRER interview and the video documentary was that Pahigon was nowhere near the venue of the actual surrender proceedings—the Home Economics building of the Kiangan Central Elementary School.

The building is now a shrine and WWII museum.

"He was just an *usisero* (busybody)," Manangan said, explaining how Pahigon got into position—despite the US-imposed cordon—to witness an event no Filipino was supposed to see.

He conceded, though, that there's nobody left alive to "corroborate" Pahigon's story.

"But he keeps on repeating it to his neighbors," said Mayor Indunan in an interview.

During the commemoration program at the Kiangan School grounds, Sen. Richard Gordon said the Americans declared the area off-limits to Filipinos on the day Yamashita arrived—to protect the Japanese general from the wrath of the natives.

But Manangan had a more cynical view of why his people were left out:

"The Americans just probably wanted all the glory," he said.

Speaking as vice chair of the commission overseeing the 60th anniversary of WWII in the country, Gordon lamented the dearth of Filipino-written accounts of the Pacific War—compared to the voluminous chronicles and memoirs by US soldiers.

Pahigon, not being a registered war veteran, did not even bother to go to the town proper to watch the anniversary rites.

Instead, the INQUIRER found him and his wife Carmen in their wooden house on stilts, overlooking a green-and-brown bowl of terraced rice paddies which the Cordillera region is famous for.

Getting there that rainy midday required a 30-minute walk from the edge of the road to Sitio Bolog, Barangay Nagacadan, up and down slippery footpaths and along the banks of irrigation canals which, Pahigon said, Japanese troops also used in Yamashita's last days.

Near the end of the interview, Pahigon delivered what might be his ultimate proof that he was there at history's sidelines:

The nearly toothless Ifugao elder stood at attention, keeping a two-meter distance from this reporter and gave his own snappy Yamashita "salute."

So sorry

In Baguio City on Saturday, Japanese Ambassador Ryuichiro Yamazaki expressed his country's "deep remorse and heartfelt apology to all the victims of the war."

In a speech he delivered on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of Yamashita's surrender, Yamazaki said: "Japan [has] resolved to face squarely the fact that its military aggression has caused unbearable atrocities and suffering to the people of the Philippines and several other Asian countries such as China and Korea."

The end of World War II was marked by Yamashita's formal surrender at the United States Ambassador's Residence in Camp John Hay on Sept. 3, 1945.

While Yamazaki apologized for the war, copies of a 15-page manuscript detailing the heroism of Yamashita were being sold for P25 on the city's sidewalks.

Hero

Yamashita should be remembered in the Philippines as a Japanese hero, the manuscript said, crediting the general with devising a "gorgeous plan of defense" against American retaliation by choosing the impregnable Cordillera mountains as his stronghold.

It drew some angry remarks from war veterans who attended the rites, questions from their curious relatives and accolades from the surprised Japanese ambassador.

The Yamashita papers were written by Angel Guimbatan, an Ifugao teacher, who said he plans to write a series of books on "the true Yamashita," exploring the myths about the "Tiger of Malaya," including his supposed buried treasure.

Guimbatan said he got more protests from Kiangan folk, who remember Yamashita with a local public holiday every Sept. 2. President Macapagl-Arroyo attended Kiangan's "Victory Day" on Friday.

"In Kiangan, people still remember the deaths [from diseases caused by the rotting corpses of unburied soldiers]," Guimbatan said, who sold the manuscripts in Ifugao for P35.

"Hungduan (a town in Ifugao) started out with a population of 12,000. After the war, the population was down to 800 people," he said. *With reports from Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

ROGER MARGALLO

BATCH 1981 member of the Philippine Military Academy, Lt. Greg Ramos, a rebel soldier in the 1989 coup attempt against President Cory Aquino in 1989, was well on his way to making it to captain when he junked his uniform to become a man of the cloth.

TODAY, 14 years after he entered the seminary, Fr. Ramos heads the parishes of Santo Kristo and Our Lady of the Pillar both in Las Piñas. He says his transformation continues to this day.

Soldier discovers God in battle, turns priest

From page A1

tized but 'unchurched'," Ramos told the INQUIRER in an interview. "But later I realized that, like the Eucharist, we also have to be broken, blessed and shared with others."

A nominal Catholic in the past, Ramos actually nurtured his faith in the barracks, in the company of fellow battle-hardened soldiers from other faiths.

He believes he first heard God's subtle calling after he made his first "kill" in 1984, just three years after he graduated from the PMA.

Sitting in an armored vehicle behind his favorite .25-mm firearm, he led the Army's Light Armor Company in pounding communist New People's Army positions in Tagum, Davao del Norte.

Sleepless nights

At the end of the firefight, he learned that coroners had found only body parts and lots of blood behind enemy lines.

For three nights, sleep eluded him.

One time, he learned that a classmate and an upperclassman had been ambushed and killed by a rebel hit squad. It got him thinking.

"Why are we killing?" he recalled asking himself. "These rebels are human beings, too. They have families as well. My fellow soldiers were blessed with education, but how come they were killed just like that?"

From then on, Ramos was convinced that Divine Providence was steering him toward something he could not find within the military.

In the final days of Ferdinand Marcos in 1986, he saw a television image of the Virgin Mary and rosaries being raised in a sea of humanity along Edsa.

Side of the devil

"It stuck in my mind: If Mama Mary was on the side of the people, who was on the other side where soldiers were? It must be the devil!," he said.

More questions hounded Ramos: Were the saints and devotion to Mary necessary? Did we need their images in our churches? Could we talk to God directly?

Soon, he found himself organizing monthly Masses for the entire Army brigade in Davao. Many times he debated with Born Again Christians in the area. But he didn't quite know his faith so he had to read the Bible.

The transformation caught the eye of one Dominican priest, who told him: "Perhaps you have a vocation. It's unusual for a soldier to be active in religious activities."

Confronting God

One day in 1987, he asked God point-blank: Are you calling me?

He got his answer on the Feast of the Assumption.

Ramos volunteered to donate balloons for school children in Davao as requested by a group of sisters. He phoned in his order but never bothered to check afterward.

Pick-up time came and there were no balloons.

Told that the children were expecting them, Ramos was deeply bothered. "Because of my cockiness, I frustrated the children."

The following day, at around 4 a.m., he and six of his soldiers descended from the mountains to look for balloons in the city. They found them—and they returned to the school that morning like heroes to the children.

One last fling

The incident made him realize that he should not take things for granted. It was the last of a series of events that convinced him it was time to become a priest.

The soldier looking for rebels in the mountains had found God, instead.

Two years later, in December 1989, when everybody in the brigade was expecting him to join the priesthood, Ramos pulled one last surprise.

He deployed his company to Davao City as a "sympathy move" with rebel Scout Rangers attempting to unseat Aquino in Manila. The mutiny was short-lived and he was soon convinced by his commander to return to barracks.

God's hand, again

Still, the damage had been done and Ramos was sacked from his unit. He was later summoned to the 1990 Davide Commission looking into the bloodiest coup against the Aquino regime. He emerged from his ordeal without being arrested.

Again, he saw God's hand in it.

Ramos was a first lieutenant on his way to being a captain when he entered the seminary in 1991.

"I thought it was going to be relatively easy because of my discipline at the PMA, but I was wrong," he said. "Here, it was much more difficult. It was more of a processing, the need for psychological and spiritual toughness."

Only few are chosen

The difficulty is reflected in the fact that out of an average 55 applicants yearly, only eight are usually accepted in the six-year formation program, said Fr. Jose Alan Dialogo, a former school teacher and now rector of HASS.

Dialogo said the school enjoyed a higher batting average than regular seminaries in producing priests. An average of five out of 10 HASS seminarians are ordained priests.

For this, Dialogo credits the maturity, discipline and conviction which applicants had developed in their previous professional careers.

HASS' first prelate, Bishop Mylo Vergara of San Jose, Nueva Ecija, was an engineering management graduate of Ateneo.

Internal struggle

At the seminary, Ramos literally had to hold his punches.

"Back in the PMA, we settled disputes through fistfights," he said. "At HASS, they were a no-no. You'd be kicked out automatically."

A seminarian, instead, focused on a much more important and difficult "internal struggle" that went with the priesthood.

"When God calls you and you respond to Him, you will be converted," he said. "But there is a difficulty in that. In the process of following Him, you undergo changes."

The challenge

Ramos said his transformation was continuing up to now, nine years after his ordination. He heads the parishes of both Santo Kristo and Our Lady of the Pillar in Las Piñas.

Ramos said the challenge for priests was "to go out there, be in touch with the people and guide the 80-percent baptized but unchurched Filipinos."

"After nine years, I still need to be broken and shared with others," he said.

'Jueteng' cash for bishops...

From page A1

the beneficiaries of jueteng funds, according to some of the mayors who attended the just-concluded League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) annual summit in Puerto Princesa City.

"*Ang problema, kapag simbahan ang nabigyan, ang tawag tulong, kapag* mayor, *ang tawag suhol* (The problem is if the church benefits it's called aid, but if a mayor benefits it's called a bribe)," said a local executive who was quoted in a conference news release.

The LMP delegates, however, did not say if they were referring to the Roman Catholic, Protestant or Born-Again Christian church.

Summit host and Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn did not comment on the mayors' disclosure.

Good news

Instead, he talked about the "good news." Close to 300 city and municipal mayors attending the summit had signed a covenant on the "100 percent eradication of jueteng" in their respective areas.

About 90 percent of the mayors also endorsed Hagedorn's proposal to revive the Small Town Lottery or STL, which the anti-jueteng czar called the "best legal substitute" for the illegal numbers game.

"A few mayors favored the legalization of jueteng while the rest said the Bingo 2 Balls (which was introduced during the short-lived Estrada administration) should be brought back," Hagedorn said.

Several LMP provincial chapter presidents, including Binalonan Mayor Ramon Guico Jr. (Pangasinan), who is also LMP national president, Lubao Mayor Dennis Pineda (Pampanga), son of suspected jueteng lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda, and Alicia Mayor Napoleon Dy (Isabela), a member of the influential Dy political clan in Cagayan Valley, had earlier affixed their signatures to the anti-jueteng resolution.

Pangasinan, Pampanga and Isabela are among the jueteng "hotspots" in Luzon, according to Hagedorn.

Other signatories

Other covenant signatories included the following LMP chapter heads: Mayor Corazon Abad (Ilocos Norte), Mayor Jesus Bueno Jr. (Ilocos Norte), Mayor Ambrocio Cruz (Bulacan), Mayor Guilermo Acero (Laguna), Mayor Norberto Mendoza (Oriental Mindoro), Mayor Melquiades Gaite (Camarines Sur), Mayor Adorlito Ginete (Batangas), Mayor Raymundo del Rosario (Cavite), Mayor David Emralino (Quezon), Mayor Tomas Pizarro (Marinduque) and Mayor Gerardo Calderon (Rizal).

They all pledged to "eradicate and put to a complete halt the operation of jueteng" in their respective areas of jurisdiction.

Hagedorn said he earlier got the same commitment from Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson and Batangas Gov. Armando Sanchez.

During the two-day conference in the Palawan capital, the mayors reported that jueteng "thrives in 580 of 700 cities and municipalities in Luzon."

Livelihood

"Around one million individuals, including *kubrador* or bet collectors, reviewers, revisers and other workers, depend on jueteng as their daily means of sustenance. Many of them have been employed as such since childhood," said the summit news release.

Jueteng persisted "principally because it is a very lucrative business on the part of the operators and their capitalists, a source of hefty 'extra incomes' for those in government, a source of employment for the many who are unemployed, and for the bettors, the promise of big payoffs for their paltry bets," Hagedorn said.

Citing media reports, "gross jueteng collections in Regions 1 to 5, Cordillera Administration Region and the National Capital Region (Metro Manila) amount to P75 million a day or P27 billion a year," he said.

65-35 sharing

"With the usual sharing of 65-35, this means that annually, at least P9.45 billion goes to gambling lords and the so-called *intelihensya* while P17.5 billion goes to the local *bangka* or *kapitalista* (financier), who pays the kabo and kubrador (table manager and collector) and winner payouts," Hagedorn said.

Provincial, city and municipal executives, who are not operators themselves, "depend on jueteng contributions to provide various forms of what they call 'cradle-to-grave' assistance—from mothers giving birth to *abuloy* (donations) for wakes and other doleouts. These contributions come from the approximately P9.45 billion a year share of the gambling lords, representing their 35 percent of the jueteng collections and also from the capitalists," he said.

"Likewise, these contributions remain as a source of election campaign funds apart from the practice of utilizing the influence of *kabos* and *kubradors* in campaign mobilization under the traditional practice of patronage politics," Hagedorn said.

Opposition tagged in 'smear job' vs bishops

ADMINISTRATION lawmakers yesterday accused the opposition of conducting a smear campaign against Catholic bishops for receiving money from the state-run Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

Mandaluyong City Rep. Benhur Abalos and Parañaque Rep. Eduardo Zialcita said the opposition's "concerted black propaganda campaign" was unseemly because the Pagcor donations to the Church were "a nonpartisan practice to support charitable projects that began several administrations ago."

They said the supposed smear campaign "could well be a punishment" because the bishops did not openly call for President Macapagal-Arroyo's resignation and were "united" in their "stance against partisan politics and for political leaders to achieve enlightenment." *Philip C. Tubeza*

It's moral . . .

From page A1

"jueteng" and election fraud scandals. Instead, it called for the creation of a truth commission and backed the impeachment process.

"I wonder why Pagcor officials left us money then, and are now announcing to the INQUIRER that we were getting money [from the agency]," he said.

Accepted money

"We did not ask for it," he added, referring to the envelopes.

Aniceto said he and the other bishops decided to take the money and agreed to use it on charity projects.

"We accepted the money," he said, but did not disclose the amounts involved.

Vidal himself admitted being a "recipient" of donations from Pagcor, but said the funds went directly to various beneficiaries in Cebu. He issued the statement through Msgr. Achilles Dakay, the Cebu archdiocese's media liaison officer.

Dakay said that as far as he could recall, the only personal gifts that Vidal had accepted from Pagcor were the fruit baskets sent to the archbishop's residence, which were among the many fruit baskets received by the prelate during the holiday season.

According to Dakay, Vidal phoned him yesterday and instructed him to issue a statement emphasizing that the money did not go directly to him or to the archdiocese.

Vidal is in Manila to attend a meeting with officials of Radio Veritas.

Dakay said the archdiocese was operating independently on funds representing its share of the income of the various parishes of Cebu.

"Cardinal Vidal said he was sure that of the checks that were sent or made payable to the 'Roman Catholic Archbishop of Cebu,' not one was ever used by the archdiocese because these went straight to hospitals or schools that were the beneficiaries," Dakay said in Cebuano.

Before, not now

Archbishop Aniceto likewise admitted that his archdiocese had accepted donations from Pagcor, especially after the Mt. Pinatubo eruptions.

But he said the practice was stopped in 2004, when the CBCP issued a policy against using proceeds from legal or illegal gambling for the Church's charity projects.

"Yes, we received money before, especially after the Pinatubo eruptions. This went to the victims, not to the institutional church," Aniceto said in a statement relayed by a priest in a phone conversation yesterday with the INQUIRER in the City of San Fernando.

The eruptions, considered the world's worst in the 20th century, began in June 1991 and lasted until 1997.

Aniceto said the Church-run Social Action Centers in Pampanga and the archdiocese's suffragan dioceses in Tarlac and Zambales built resettlement sites and initiated livelihood projects for some 15,000 displaced families.

"That is our way of helping the government carry out its responsibility to the poor," he said.

Pagcor was among the many donors tapped to help in the rehabilitation of the ravaged areas in Pampanga, President Macapagal-Arroyo's home province.

"After the CBCP statement in 2004, we resolved not to receive any funding from Pagcor for charity works for the poor," Aniceto said.

Gambling and morality

Capalla said money generated by Pagcor was essentially "moral" because its operations neither involved the poor nor promoted gambling among them.

"The two conditions for gambling to be immoral are not there," he pointed out. "Gambling per se is not immoral or unjust, but it will be [so] if the two conditions—addiction and allowing the poor to lose their hard-earned money—are there."

In the case of Pagcor, which runs casinos, Capalla argued that the money came from "legal gambling, where the poor do not play."

"Only the rich people are spending their money in gambling," he said, seemingly oblivious of stories about the rich and powerful laying their fortunes and lives to waste in casinos.

To prove his point, the archbishop claimed he had never requested or received a centavo from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

The PCSO runs the sweepstakes and the lotto, forms of legal gambling that are primarily patronized by the poor.

Not beholden

Capalla said "85 percent" of the requests he usually got for Pagcor donations went to the hospitalization and treatment of the poorest residents of his archdiocese, one of the richest nationwide.

Asked if he felt beholden to Pagcor or Malacañang for the funds, he said: "No, definitely not.

"Our hands are not bound. I tell the local Pagcor here that we will not keep quiet on immoral actions."

Besides, there is no "direct connection" between Malacañang and Pagcor's cash donations to the Church, he said.

But last month, former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman quoted Ms Arroyo as earlier telling a group of Cabinet officials that she could not sack Pagcor chair Genuino, a close associate of her husband, because "he takes care of the media and the bishops."

Capalla said the latest revelation on gambling money and the Church did not surprise him.

"I knew someday it will come out like that," he said. "I was not afraid because we were not deceived by Pagcor. I really don't understand why this has become a problem or an issue."

He also said he received text messages yesterday from a number of bishops, all expressing support: "We are in solidarity with you, we understand."

Timing

Dakay questioned the timing of the report on the allegations against Vidal and the other bishops, saying the CBCP was now expected to come up with another statement addressing the House justice committee's junking of the impeachment complaints against Ms Arroyo.

He confirmed that Vidal was supposed to meet with other bishops yesterday to discuss the latest development in the impeachment issue.

Dakay also said Vidal had wanted it stressed that Pagcor or PCSO checks issued in the cardinal's name were willingly accepted by the archdiocese only before the introduction of lotto.

After that, he said, Vidal instructed the parish priests and other Church agencies to desist from taking donations from the PCSO.

But unfortunately, he added, Church institutions in Cebu continued to accept such donations because they could not sustain operations on their own, such as the Asilo de la Milagrosa, a home for abandoned children and elderly; the Cardinal Rosales Hospital; a number of parish-run schools, and the Perpetual Succor Hospital.

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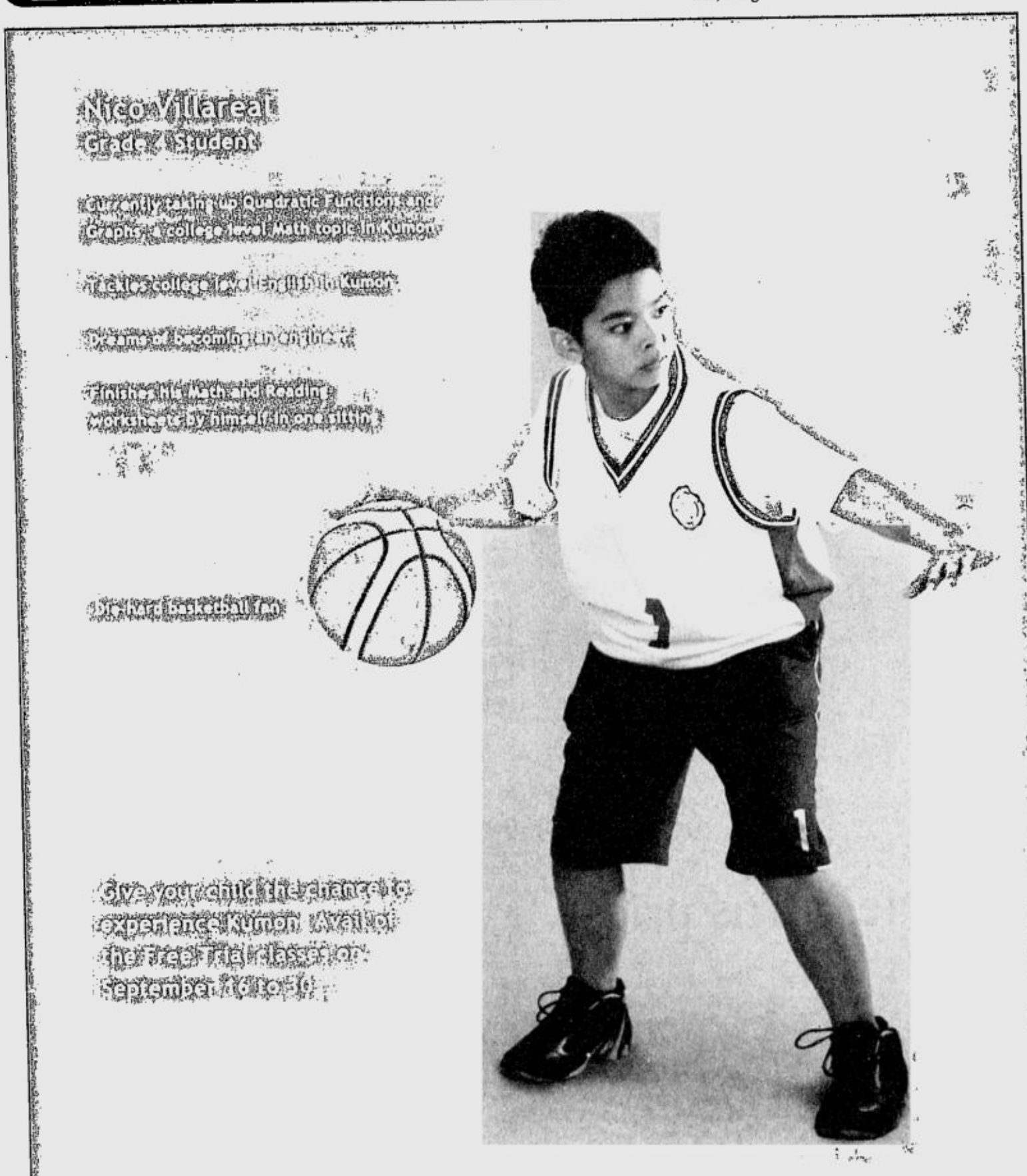

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Police brace for rallies around Batasan complex

By Nancy C. Carvajal

ANTICIPATING massive demonstrations tomorrow in connection with the on-going impeachment proceedings at the House of Representatives, the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) will be activating "Batasan Shield."

"Batasan Shield is meant to secure Metro Manila, the general public [and] the duly constituted authority," said NCRPO Chief Vidal Querol in his letter of instruction (LOI) to all concerned police units.

He added that it would be aimed at protecting the seat of government, critical infrastructure and key economic points in the metropolis.

In a copy of the LOI obtained by INQUIRER, Querol spoke of intensified anti-GMA activities with support from sectoral organizations and the United Opposition.

"Such mass actions may become bigger and violent as they would become desperate [in trying to gain] public sympathy," the NCRPO head said in his directive.

Expected to take effect today, the shield will be backed up by 3,000 policemen from Metro Manila and coordinated with the Office of the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives, the Armed Forces, local government units and the Traffic Enforcement Group.

Under the security plan, members of the police Civil Disturbance Management unit, supported by firetrucks, will be deployed around the Batasan Complex.

Their main concern will be to block protesters from coming from Don Mariano Marcos Avenue, Barangay Litex, St. Peter's Church and those crossing over from San Mateo, Rizal.

Police from Quezon City have been tasked to monitor and "initiate appropriate action" against protesters from Northern Luzon arriving in buses and jeepneys and passing through Balintawak.

Lawmen are ordered to minimize if not prevent demonstrators from entering Metro Manila and going to the Batasan area.

In the LOI, Querol ordered preemptive measures against demonstrators who might gather at traditional staging points like the Edsa Shrine at the corner of Ortigas Avenue.

He stressed that the no permit, no rally policy would be implemented.

Expecting arrests, Querol ordered the formation of a team of investigators whose function will be to handle cases of unruly demonstrators.

Wary that terrorists might take advantage of the situation, the LOI also put members of Special Weapons and Tactics teams, bomb disposal and K-9 units on alert, ready to respond to any threat.

The Traffic Enforcement Group has also been directed to provide monitoring assistance to ensure smooth traffic flow, particularly in places of demonstrations.

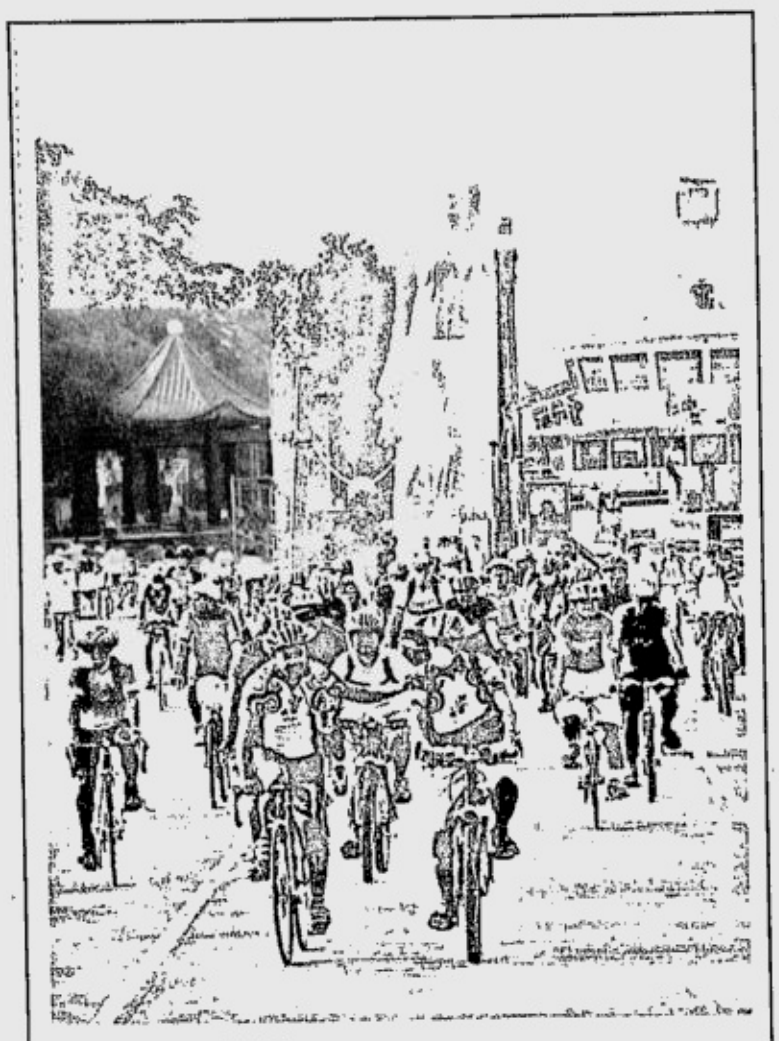
To support the police, Querol is also tapping so-called "force multipliers" by seeking assistance from Barangay Anti-Crime Councils, in close coordination with its local government.

The NCRPO chief warned that terrorists and other groups might take advantage of the situation and launch terrorist activities.

He said the recent recovery of sacks of explosive substances and paraphernalia in Quezon City and Manila could indicate that the terrorist groups were planning big bombing operations in the metropolis.

"It is possibly to maximize its impact to embarrass the present administration [before] the international community," Querol said.

He noted that recent bombings in Lamitan, Basilan, General Santos and Koronadal could be preparations for attacks in Metro Manila.



BICYCLE POWER JOAN BONDOC

Members of biking group Critical Mass Ride start their drive from the Marikina Riverbanks Park to Pasay City in support of a plan to put up bike lanes in Metro Manila.

Las Piñas also wants access to BF roads

By Jocelyn R. Uy

WHILE the United BF Homeowners Association Inc. (UBFHAI) and the Parañaque City government are locked in a dispute over the BF Homes main gates, another city has opened to the public the roads of the subdivision.

The Las Piñas City government opened Sept. 1 four gates within its jurisdiction—Naga, Southland, Concha Cruz and Mariposa gates—on the strength of a 1995 ordinance.

Ordinance No. 152-93 directed the subdivision to allow the public free use of its streets and main roads to ease traffic along the Alabang-Zapote Road.

The alternative routes were called the city's "Friendship Routes."

In a letter to Celso Reyes, president of the UBFHAI, the Las Piñas government instructed him to remove the guardhouses in various parts of the subdivision.

Traffic obstruction

The letter said the structures impeded traffic flow.

City engineer Rosabella Bantog, who signed the letter, said the guardhouses should be removed within five days from receipt of the notice.

If the subdivision failed to comply with the order, the city government "shall be constrained to remove the same at your expense."

Reyes wrote Las Piñas Mayor Imelda Aguilar protesting the "sudden, unannounced and surprise" opening of the gates.

He pointed out in his letter, a copy of which was provided the INQUIRER, that Las Piñas did not enforce the ordinance five years ago because of a court injunction.

But Las Piñas City Vice Mayor Luis Bustamante, who was then a councilor and a proponent of the city ordinance, refuted Reyes' claims.

Not included

"The injunction does not include Las Piñas City. The temporary restraining order was just for Parañaque City," said Bustamante in a phone interview yesterday.

"We are implementing the ordinance," he stressed.

He explained that the guardhouses were ordered removed because they obstructed passage along the city's Friendship Routes that helped ease traffic in the area.

The local official said, by keeping the gates private, motorists, both residents and nonresidents, had to buy stickers from the association at reportedly high prices.

Las Piñas residents felt "oppressed" not only by the fees but also by traffic jams caused by the closed gates, said Bustamante.

"The UBFHAI is acting like it is superior to the government," he said.

Rally

Meanwhile, around 1,000 BF homeowners are scheduled to take to the streets today to express their indignation with Parañaque City's move to open the gates on Aguirre and El Grande Avenues.

Dubbed Thanksgiving Rally, it would start at 9 a.m. at the Presentation of the Child Jesus Parish Chruch and end with a Mass at the Clubhouse Pavilion.

An endless battle against potholes

By Leila B. Salaverria

IT SEEMS a smooth ride will not be easy to have in Metro Manila.

Even though the Department of Public Works and Highways filled 13,000 square meters of potholes on national roads in Metro Manila last month, new ones—both natural and man-made—appear daily.

"Repairing potholes is an unending activity. We don't stop it," said DPWH-National Capital Region Director Robert Lala.

Constant monitoring

According to him, the chiefs of the eight engineering districts in Metro Manila continue to monitor roads within their jurisdiction for new potholes even after the DPWH reported on Aug. 26 that all of the potholes found previously had been filled in.

Lala said new potholes appeared not in the newly repaired areas, but in other portions of the road.

"We may patch up one part of the road, but then new potholes could appear on another part," he said.

He said the appearance of new potholes could be brought about by natural causes like rainfall, flooding or earthquakes, or the activities of men like the passing of heavy or overloaded trucks, excavations or the dragging of sharp or heavy materials along the roads.

Delays cost money

Lala said the DPWH could not ignore new potholes because if it did, the potholes would get bigger and would cost more to repair, not to mention these make the commute uncomfortable for motorists.

"The frequency of our pothole repairs is before, during and after rainfall. That is our philosophy," he added.

When the appearance of potholes on one road becomes too often and too many, the DPWH recommends the road for rehabilitation, the NCR director said.

The repair of potholes is part of the routine maintenance of roads.

The DPWH covers potholes with asphalt. Currently, it could not use cement because of the rainy season.

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Taft rerouted for bar examinations

TRAFFIC is expected to swell today along Taft Avenue in Manila as hundreds troop to take the bar examinations at De La Salle University, thus motorists are advised to take alternative routes.

The Manila District Traffic Enforcement Office is telling drivers to avoid the southbound portion of Taft Avenue from President Quirino to P. Ocampo Street (formerly Vito Cruz) as it will be closed to vehicular traffic from 4 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Traffic authorities say southbound vehicles may take Adriatico Street to their point of destination.

While the northbound lane will remain open, traffic authorities say the road may become crowded as thousands of family members and friends are expected to converge outside the university to give moral support to the examinees.

Several tents representing different schools will also be put up outside the school, said SP04 Carlito Tumamao.

At least 11 traffic police and six members of the Metro Manila Development Authority will be deployed in the area, he added.

Meanwhile, Tumamao said the southbound lane of Roxas Boulevard from Katigbak Street to P. Ocampo Street, as well as the northbound lane from Pedro Gil to Katigbak Street, will also be closed to vehicular traffic from 3:30 to 9 a.m. today due to an *alay-lakad* activity.

Participants to the *alay-lakad*, a fund-raising activity of a rotary club for the out-of-school youth, will come from different assembly points in Manila and will converge in Luneta, Tumamao said. *Tina G. Santos*

METROBRIEFS

Caloocan measures

CALOOCAN Mayor Enrico Echiverri has ordered that all local government vehicles be turned over to the city custodian before the weekend to ensure savings on gas. All City Hall issued vehicles must be surrendered to the City General Services Office every Friday at 6 p.m. The order is in line with efforts to save on energy use in view of rising gas prices. Echiverri is also asking local businessmen to draw up plans to save energy. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

Trader slain

BUSINESSWOMAN Sarah Lim Lee, 39, died after she was repeatedly stabbed her house helper, Randy Agustin, 25, inside her home on Rizal Avenue Extension in Sta. Cruz, Manila, shortly after midnight Friday. Agustin, who claimed harsh treatment and Lee's refusal to give him his salary, also seriously wounded the woman's husband, Willie, 42, and son, Tayson, 15. The suspect, a native of Davao del Sur, was arrested and detained at the Manila Police District Homicide Division. *Tina G. Santos*

No Fort demolition

DMCI Homes, the real estate business unit of DM Consunji, has denied reports that it is conducting demolition activities in connection with the AFP housing project at Fort Bonifacio in Taguig City. Isidro Consunji, DMCI Homes chair, said the company was not driving away residents from the property. The company also clarified that DMCI's agreement with the AFP and HUDCC involves only a 7-hectare property covered by TCT no. 13634 of the Registry of Deeds of Rizal, which is to be developed by DMCI as an off-base housing development for AFP personnel.

New Paltra prexy

QUEZON City Treasurer Victor B. Endriga has been elected president of the Philippine Association of Local Treasurers and Assessors (Paltra). Endriga, the author of a number of books on local government taxation and revenue collection, vowed to adopt a uniform and efficient revenue collection strategy for all local government units. He will serve a three-year term.

INQUIRER Platinum Code

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Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2005

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A STATUE of national hero Jose Rizal with two children, who he has said are the hope of the nation, serves as a backdrop to a fountain and statue of a soldier at the Malabon-Korea park. ERIK ARAZAS

A small Korean corner beckons in Malabon

By Nancy C. Carvajal

THOSE who grew up in this 407-year-old town and have seen the beauty of the river that separates the towns of Malabon and Navotas wonder how it deteriorated into its current state.

But, despite the apparent neglect of the river, Malabon, now a city, remains one of the country's "pondohan," a major fish port providing livelihood, even material wealth, to its residents.

Aside from the fish port, the city is also known for the *patis*, the fish sauce that complements almost all Filipino meals, and the *pansit* Malabon, white noodles topped with bright orange shrimp sauce with bits of seafood, vegetables, chicharon flakes and oysters.

Desserts like *sapin-sapin* and *mongo* for *halo-halo* are also sources of pride for a true native of "Malabong."

Malabong, which means "plenty of bamboo shoots," was the original name of the city when it became a full-fledged town in 1670.

The bamboo could have been the refuge in the past of bone-weary workers taking a break from the *pondohan*'s hustle and bustle.

Centuries later, a different kind of sanctuary on the river bank is available for those who work and do business at the *pondohan* and who want to rest their tired bodies and minds.

The small park is hardly noticeable from F. Sevilla Avenue, the street behind city hall.

Situated at the back of the city jail, the compact park overlooking the river is hidden from view by an amphitheater.

The park, with its lush Bermuda grass, flowering gumamela, yellow bells and bougainvillea, is a welcome sight for eyes that have grown tired of the chaos of city living.

Walls running parallel to the river are lined with palm and other trees, and various plants.

"Workers come here to rest and take a nap," said Cielito Garcia, caretaker of the Friendship Park. She said the garden was even more beautiful before.

The garden has become a favorite venue for parties and celebrations among residents. It has gazebos with roofs of *anahaw* leaves that overlook the river giving people a view of passing boats.

Garcia said people often came during the hot, dry months to enjoy the cool air from the river.

One of the gazebos, known as "kubo," has bamboo and concrete stairs. Two water fountains fall directly into a pond with small goldfish and adorned with rocks and *burnay* jars.

The other gazebo is in a corner of the park, a beautiful narra tree on one side and a huge, oldish tree on the other side that completely covers the jail's high wall. Moss now covers its branches and vines reach down to the ground.

Between the trees are several bamboo clumps enhancing the feeling the park gives visitors of being in a secluded spot.

A brown pathway in the middle divides the garden into two.

Not even the state of disrepair of Plaza Rodriguez located on one side of the garden is able to diminish the charm of this new city attraction. If anything, it even enhances its quiet beauty.

Inaugurated in May 1997, the park had become a city landmark and a favorite destination for Korean tourists, Vice Mayor Arnold Vicencio said.

This is because on one side of the park is a marker that underscores the friendship between Malabon and Taejon, a city in South Korea.

Vicencio said the city's look had greatly changed over the years that the garden almost seemed out of place.

"I feel like I'm not in Malabon every time we hold our small group meetings there," Vicencio said.

The park, he said, was a nice surprise for visitors and residents alike who thought only of the city's floods even when it did not rain (because of the high tide) and smelly streets, particularly from Tonsuya up to the fish port area.

The park, Vicencio said, was constructed to help strengthen the ties between the peoples of Malabon and Taejon.

Despite its limited budget, the local government, Garcia said, tried to maintain the park, which was also used by government officials for meetings and other functions.

Residents who wanted to use the park as venue for events like wedding receptions, baptismal and birthday parties, were not charged any fees as long as they got a permit from the mayor's office, Garcia added.

The local government even provided tables and chairs for use during those occasions, she said.

Garcia added demand for use of the park was usually high in the months of December and March.

EZ2 SUERTRES

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SIX DIGIT

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(The above in exact order)

6/42 Luzon/Vis-Min

3 13 20 21 23 27

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UAAP awards victory to UE Warriors

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE UAAP technical committee decided in favor of the University of the East Warriors' protest, awarding them the win over the La Salle Archers in the UAAP basketball tournament last Thursday.

The ruling came right before UST shocked Ateneo, 77-73, yesterday at the Blue Eagle gym. The Archers beat the UP Maroons, 59-45, in the other game.

According to Ricky Palou, technical committee chair, La Salle was not entitled to a timeout in the last 1.8 seconds of regulation since the ball was already in possession of the player assigned to make the inbound. The committee thus overturned La Salle's 86-83 overtime win.

The Eagles secured a Final Four slot (8-3), joining early semifinalists Far Eastern U Tamaraws (9-1) and the Warriors (9-3). The Archers (7-5) and the Maroons (6-7) are tightly contesting the last seat.

In Thursday's game, the Warriors were on top, 74-72, before the Archers called a timeout, allowing Cholo Villanueva to beat the buzzer and force the extra period.

UAAP/ A26

GAMES TODAY (*Blue Eagle Gym*)
9:30 a.m.—NU vs UE (Jrs)
11:30 a.m.—FEU vs Adamson (Jrs)
2 p.m.—NU vs UE (Srs)
4 p.m.—FEU vs Adamson (Srs)

Feeling the heat

EVEN our national athletes will start feeling the heat.

A new directive coming from Philippine Sports Commission chairman William "Butch" Ramirez will drastically cut down some of the luxuries enjoyed by members of the national training pools.

From what used to be a 24-hour centralized air-conditioning schedule in the athletes' homes at the Ultra and the Rizal Memorial Complex, a reduction of 63 percent will be enforced. The move would more or less save P2 million for the government.

***

THE PHILIPPINE Football Federation, through secretary general Domeka Garamendi, denied that it has already decided to move the football event of the SEA Games to the PhilSports Arena in Pasig City after it was found that the Marikina City pitch did not meet international standards.

Garamendi said in a statement that the sport's ruling Asian body is still studying a proposal by Marikina City, the original host venue of football, to cover a bike lane beside the field with soil and grass to increase the size of the pitch and allow it to meet international standards. *Musong Castillo*

Salvador signs P7-M contract

By June Navarro

JONDAN Salvador saw his childhood dream come true Friday night in the form of a long-term contract he signed with the Purefoods Chunkees.

An avid Alvin Patrimonio fan and a self-proclaimed Purefoods diehard, the 6-foot-5 power forward out of College of St. Benilde inked a multimillion contract worth at least P7 million spread in three years, player-agent Ed Ponceja told the INQUIRER.

"Purefoods is my favorite team ever since and my friends knew it even before they picked me in the draft," said Salvador, 24, the fourth overall pick during the PBA's rookie draft last month.

"What made it even more special was [being with] Cap (Patrimonio)," said the one-time winner of the PBL's MVPO trophy. "I might not be playing with him in the team but I'm excited to learn more from him."

Patrimonio, one of two four-time MVPs in the PBA—the other being legend Ramon Fernandez—formally retired last season and now acts as the team's manager.

With Salvador around, Purefoods slotman Kerby Raymundo will now have a more reliable backup, something that head coach Ryan Gregorio had long been hoping for.

"Our goal is to strengthen the team's frontline," Gregorio said. "The addition of Salvador and the presence of Kerby (Raymundo) will definitely beef us up on that area."

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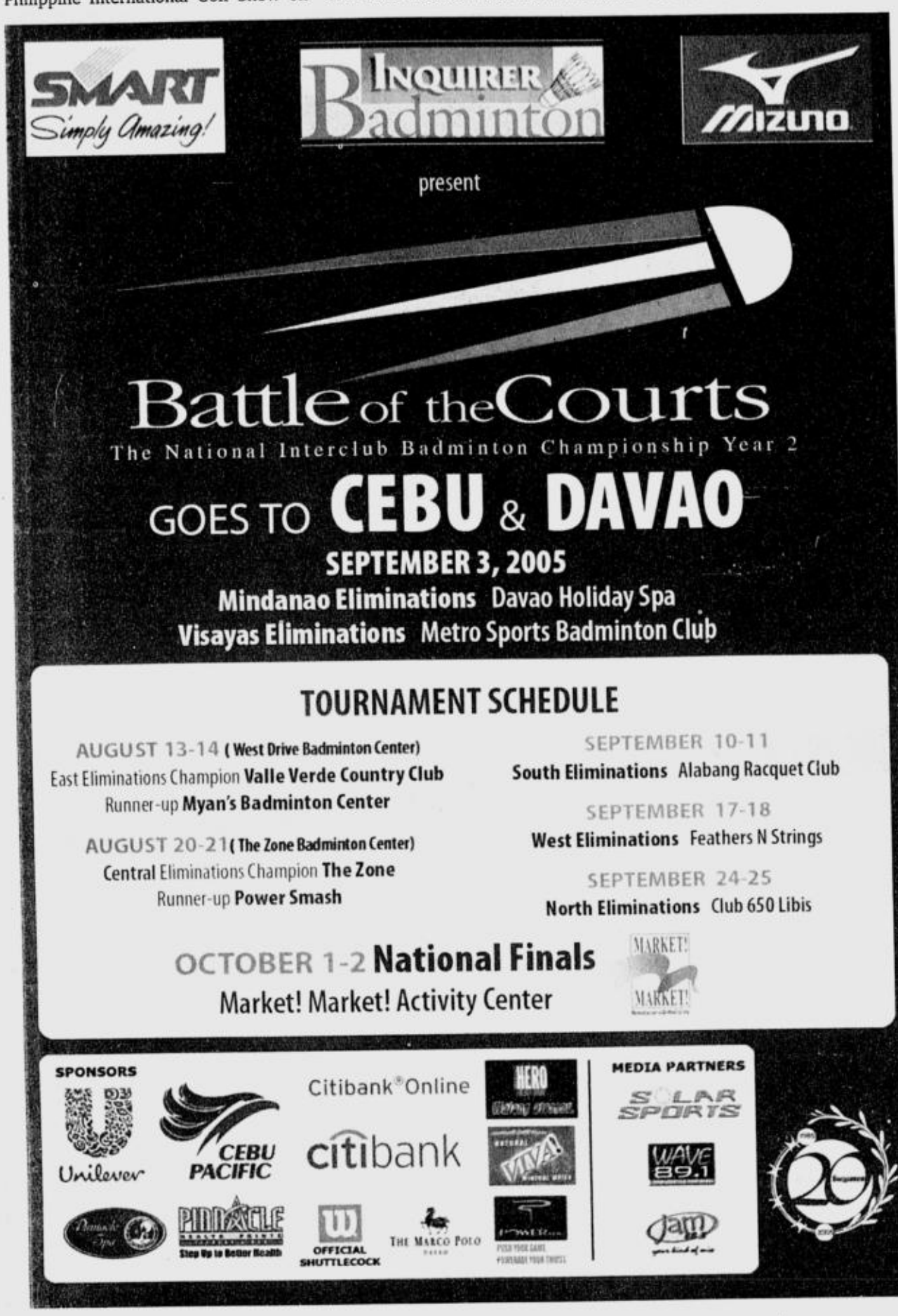
10th Philippine International Golf Show slated Oct. 7-9 at Megatrade Hall

THE LOCAL golf community is in for a big treat when equipment and apparel distributors stage the 10th edition of the Philippine International Golf Show on Oct. 7 to 9 at Hall 2 of the Megatrade Hall at SM Megamall.

Over 100 booths offering products and services and discounted merchandise will be featured in the show organized by the Golf Distributors Association of the Philippines with the support of the NGAP (National Golf Association of the Philippines), WGAP (Women Golfers Association of the Philippines), PGAP (Professional Golfers Association of the Philippines), Jungolf (Jungolf Foundation of the Philippines) and the PTA (Philippine Turfgrass Association)

Call Fairs & More at 8451324 or 7596680 for details.



Ring Tone rings bell for Esguerra stable

By Edwin Villanueva, *Contributor*

RING Tone's message to the other imports was loud and clear. She's the new kid on the block but she means business.

The dark bay filly who'll turn 3 years old next month galloped solidly in the mud yesterday to win the MJCI Invitational at the San Lazaro Leisure Park, indicating that she'll be a force to reckon with in major races ahead.

"She ran well in her last outing that's why I knew she's already ripe for the win," said Jesse Guce on the daughter of Honour and Glory out of Anapalau.

Showing vast improvement since she finished a close second to stablemate Suppressed in the William Inglis-Australia Cup last week, Ring Tone sliced through between Hazmagic and American Woman as the field neared the far turn and drew away effortlessly to nail down her very first win on local soil

Ring Tone timed 1:36.5 (20-24-25-27.5) and finished the 1,525-meter event five lengths clear of coupled bet Bulakeña, giving another 1-2 finish for owner-breeder Hermie Esguerra, who bought the winner at the famed Inglis Auction in Australia last year.

Hazmagic wound up third then came American Woman and Air Force One.

RACING

AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1-1. Day Break 2. Miss Vicky 3. Miltied Forever 4. Beat D Heat
Race 2-1. Tellmenolies 2. Naida's Star 3. Prinsesa 4. Cool Cielo/Twiggy's Charm
Race 3-1. Cosanne 2. Penny Wise 3. Master Ijhay
Race 4-1. Bullish Dream 2. Kaori Yoks 3. Bashful Lady 4. En Carta 5. Reign of Roses
Race 5-1. Real Spicy 2. Speed Advantage
Race 6-1. Real Storm 2. Southern Charm 3. Real Queen 4. Glamador
Race 7-1. Last Snip 2. Toril 3. Lolita
Race 8-1. Nothing to Declare 2. Cara Dura 3. Angie Gray
Race 9-1. Always Florence 2. Rhyme and A Prayer/Mighty Mare 3. Storm Gauge/Colombia Breeze
Race 10-1. La Signorina 2. Nitty Gritty 3. Hello Junior 4. Shining Lance
Race 11-1. Mr. Bonjing 2. Calvin's Magic 3. Step on the Gas/Speed Admiral
Race 12-1. True Justice 2. Close Account 3. Pasirit 4. Fashion Victim
Race 13-1. Fastteller 2. Ingay Ingay 3. Wing Away 4. Burning Steel 5. Brenda Starr 6. Quick Pick

Global City hosts Supermoto race

EXCITING action unfolds as Speedgear Sports Inc. and Honda Philippines stage the 2005 Honda XRM Supermoto Challenge today at the Bonifacio Global City in Taguig.

Rep. Jack Enrile will be the guest of honor of the event patterned after the Supermoto races taken from its American origin and the Spermotard from its European counterpart.

Speedgear Sports Inc. of organizer and race director Joey Almeda put up the series for the thousands of Honda XRM riders in the country.

The special registration fee is P50. Over P100,000 is at stake with P10,000 awaiting the champion. Part of the sponsorship fees will go to the Golden Acres Foundation. For details, contact Almeda at 0920-5216971.

Touring Car set Sept. 10

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FAST cars, beautiful women and non-stop action.

These are pretty much the stuff offered by the newly organized Philippine National Touring Car Championships which roars off this month with races in Batangas and Subic.

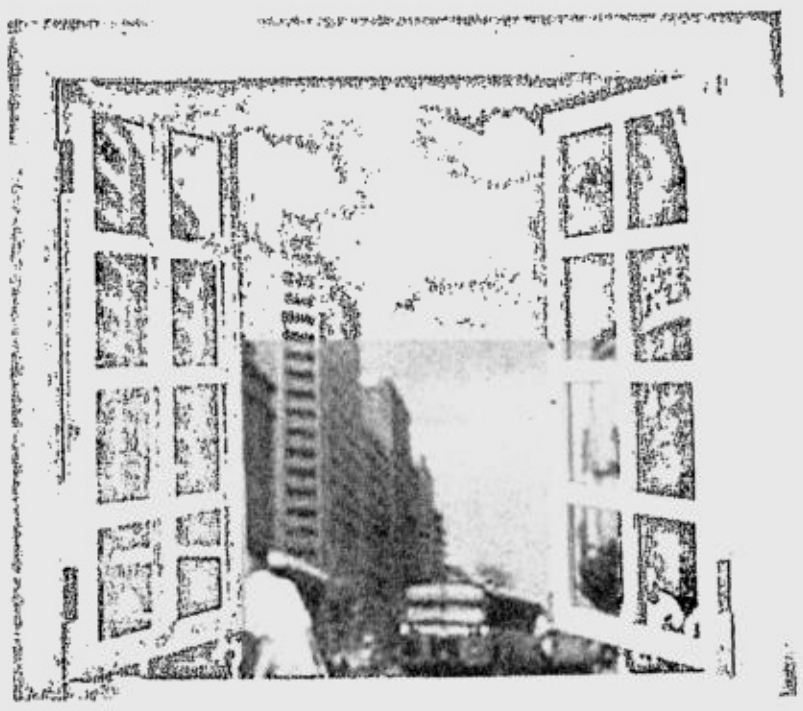
Last year's touring car champ Louie Ramirez, who drives a two-door hatchback, will banner the elite 21-man field in the event which fires off Sept. 10-11 at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Ramirez promised an exciting racing season this year with the revamped racing procedures, the introduction of weekly babes to flag up race days and the re-designed Subic International Raceways which will be the venue of six of the eight legs.

Ramirez's rival, Jody Coseteng, failed to sign up during Tuesday night's launch at the Teak Bar and Bistro in Rockwell.

Teams like TEC, Bosch-TNT, MP Turbo, Shift, V3 Race, Velocity, Tohta and Overdrive mix it up for the season's top racing accolade.

When a door closes, a window opens ....



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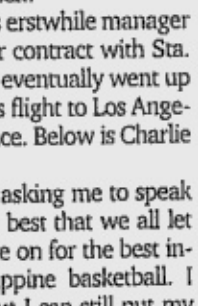
'Fiba ban not forever'

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

IF LITO Alvarez of FedEx could have his way, he wants his fellow PBA governors to disband the training pool under coach Chot Reyes.

The papers said Lito would push for that in the PBA board meeting scheduled for tomorrow.

The papers likewise said Buddy Encarnado of Sta. Lucia and Ricky Vargas of Talk 'N Text would back up Lito's proposal.

I'm not about to pass judgment.

You hear, you read in the papers, this and that but until it gains form and substance, it's all hearsay.

Lito's reason for the disbandment is the Fiba ban on Philippine participation in all Fiba-sanctioned tournaments, including the SEA Games in Manila in November. He said there was no use maintaining the pool "if we are banned in overseas play."

Lito has a point there. If we are preparing for nothing, why maintain a pool at all?

It'd be just a waste of money, time and energy.

But then, Chot has countered: "We need this pool because we are preparing for the future. The Fiba ban is not forever. Once it is lifted, the pool's reason for existence will be more than justified."

The papers said Chot's plan is to get us to the Beijing Olympics in 2008. He said his boys would be ready to go for it in the 2007 Olympic qualifying.

Chot's shooting for the moon, of course. The Olympiad is more than Mt. Everest for us: The hardest to conquer.

But then, on second thought, who knows?

Sports is known to produce the impossible, the improbable, the most miraculous feats.

While I see logic in Lito's proposal, I say let's not rush up things. First, let's define the goals and priorities of the PBA before we even think of disbanding Chot's pool.

If the pool isn't worth spending for, then scrap it. Any project bereft of noble intentions ought to be nipped in the bud.

But is Chot's Olympic dream not worth our while?

It is, mainly because we are a basketball country.

By just being in Beijing is like having reached the peak of Mt. Everest.

By just being there is like saying the PBA remains as Asia's best league ever.

By just being there is like establishing basketball renaissance in the country.

What if we don't get there?

Fine, fine. But at least we tried.

Money is the problem?

From what I hear, San Miguel Corp. has been bankrolling Chot's pool from Day One.

And from what I hear, SMC's Ramon Ang has been pretty satisfied thus far with Chot's boys.

One, Ang was thrilled of our decent finish in Las Vegas.

Two, Ang was more than thrilled of our third-place finish in the Taiwan Jones Cup.

Three, Ang was ecstatic over our victory in Brunei last week.

So, if the PBA's not spending anything substantial, why even think of disbanding the pool at all?

I say the PBA should even think proud of the Brunei triumph and, to concretize that, maybe fete Chot Reyes and his boys instead of peel them off the PBA program?

I say to disband Chot's pool now would be a classic act of how not to progress in the PBA. That is retrogression of the first degree.

That'd be two steps backward, zero step forward.

***

Remember Alex Cabagnot, Sta. Lucia's No. 2 draft pick this year whose sudden departure for America triggered a stir last week?

Well, Charlie Dy, Cabagnot's erstwhile manager who negotiated the three-year contract with Sta. Lucia's Buddy Encarnado that eventually went up in smoke following Cabagnot's flight to Los Angeles, has finally broken his silence. Below is Charlie Dy's side of the matter.

"A lot of people have been asking me to speak out and react but I guess it is best that we all let bygones be bygones and move on for the best interest of the PBA and Philippine basketball. I might have been maligned but I can still put my head up high for I know I did not do anything wrong. All my players can vouch for me for in my years as an agent, never had I, nor any of my players, encountered such problem. My only interest is to see my players have a good future and not to ruin their future. I believe all the teams can also attest that I'm not a hardball for I understand very well all the situations, having been a coach and a team manager myself. I hope this will put to rest this issue. Thank you very much!"

With that, I ring the curtains down on the Cabagnot case.

Next case, please?

***

FASTBREAK. Rico V. Brizuela, that well-loved buddy of mine from the shipping and forwarding industry, will be the happiest man tomorrow when the Pisfa holds its anniversary golf tournament at Sta. Elena. As Pisfa president, Rico spent nights ironing out whatever kinks one can imagine to ensure a trouble-free tournament. Here's to you, Rico!

SPORTSWATCH

NCA stag derbies in Makati

THE NATIONAL Cockers Association holds its Stags Derby Circuit at the fully air-conditioned Makati Coliseum starting Sept. 6 and 8 with Gov. Ito Yñares, the Firefly Group and Danilo Jiao as hosts. The association, composed of the who's who in local cockfighting, welcomed four congressmen as new members recently. The six lawmakers in its fold are Representatives Ronnie Puno, Gerry "Boy" Espina, Iggy Arroyo, Butch Pichay, Jing Paras and Nonoy Libanan. Only stags screened and banded by NCA, NGBA and GFBAN will be accepted in all NCA stag derbies.

TURNOVER: Coaches Jun Noel (partly covered), Al Solis and Vic Sanchez, present to NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla (striped shirt) the trophy won by the NBC-Nature's Spring Selection for sweeping the 9th Crown Prince Cup international invitational basketball championship recently in Thailand.

LGBA 7-Stag Derby starts Sept. 26

THE LUZON Gamecock Breeders Association, the biggest group of gamefowl breeders in Luzon, will present the "LGBA 7-Stag Derby" series beginning on Sept. 26 at the fully air-conditioned Araneta Coliseum. LGBA president Rene "Boy" Diaz announced that three LGBA stag derbies will be staged this year to determine the Breeder of the Year winner. The sponsors are Lakpue Drug Inc., Robichem Supremo, Excellence Poultry and Livestock Specialist, Thunderbird and Vitarich Corp. A general membership meeting will be held on Sept. 9, 6 p.m. at the Sulo Hotel. Drawing of lots for LGBA members will be held on the same day. For details call Taz Lunazco at 9267808, 9245072 or 0920-5851940.

CHEERING SQUADS: Members of host school St. Jude College cheering squad perform during the opening rites of the 11th Colleges and Universities Sports Association (Cusa) Season recently at the Araneta Coliseum. Participating are St. Jude College, Central Colleges of the Philippines, De Ocampo Memorial College, De La Salle Araneta University, Las Piñas College, Technological University of the Philippines, Manuel L. Quezon University, Trinity College-QC, Metro Manila College, World Citi College, PMI Colleges and Philippine College of Criminology.

STREETBALL

RP squads best rivals

By June Navarro

THE PHILIPPINES exploited its homecourt edge and familiarity with the rules as the country's Team A and Team B posted twin victories at the start of the 2005 Adidas Asian Streetball Finals yesterday at the Araneta Coliseum.

Riego Gamalinda and skipper Eduardo Tecson starred for RP Team A as it blasted China, 13-6, while Jay-R Taganas and Borgie Hermida proved instrumental during the Nationals' 15-9 victory over Korea.

"Our familiarity with the rules is the team's biggest asset," said RP Team A coach Rene Baena, whose players also see action for the San Beda Red Lions in the NCAA.

Baena made good use of his time outs when momentum shifted on the opposite side while shuffling his men with timing and efficiency within the 20-minute nonstop encounter.

RP Team B was also aggressive on the floor as the West Negros College dribblers crushed Korea, 15-5 before squeezing past Hong Kong, 11-7, in the other game.

John Blargs Alisbo, Severino Baclao, Rundy Baydo and Jelmar Padilla put up a stingy defense on both games to shut down the shooters from the visiting teams.

With the Nationals posting identical 2-0 records, they need to win at least two in their next three assignments to assure themselves of a seat in the Finals.

Tournament format calls for a single-round elimination after which the top two teams advance to the championships. The other competing teams in the boys' division are Chinese-Taipei, Hong Kong, China and Korea.

On the girls' division, RP Team-A was also impressive as it subdued Hong Kong, 12-9, and defeated RP Team-B to tally a 2-0 card. In contrast, RP Team-B has yet to register a victory in two outing after dropping a 5-15 decision against China.

Other games in the boys' division saw China slipping past Chinese-Taipei, 12-8, and Hong Kong walloping Chinese-Taipei, 15-7. China remains the team to beat in the distaff side after beating RP Team-B, Chinese Taipei, 16-15, and Hong Kong, 14-6, in succession.

JOHN Marcelo (inset) captures the overall runner-up trophy as he defended his position well while taking the uphill climb in the championship round of the 2005 Ford Lynx Cup Advance Series.

Enrile lauds Filipino shoot champions

INTERNATIONAL Practical Shooting Confederation Regional Director for the Philippine Region Juan Ponce Enrile Jr. yesterday congratulated the national team for taking two individual titles and retaining their team title in the World Shoot XIV held at Guayaquil, Ecuador, recently.

The team, headed by Jag Lejano, Danny Torrevillas, Phillipp Chua and Nelson Uygongco, was fielded by the Philippine Practical Shooting Association.

Lejano ruled the modified division, showing up more than 800 competitors from 56 countries, while Torrevillas topped the senior category of the production division. The modified division national team kept the world shoot crown while the team composed of Lejano, third placer Nelson Uygongco, Lyndon Biraogo (fifth) and Joseph Sy (sixth).

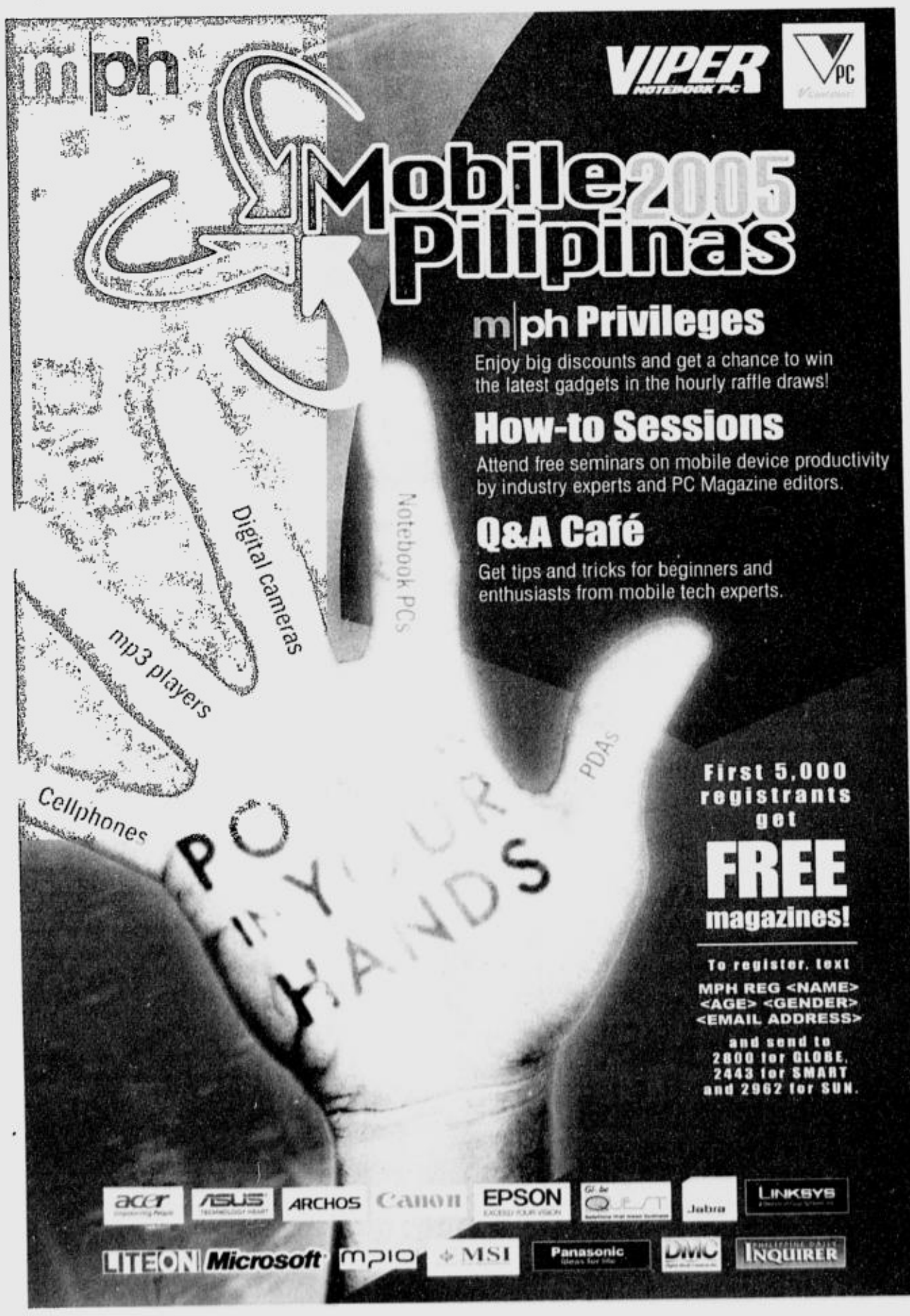
"This year's world shoot campaign is an important milestone in the efforts of the PPSA to gain honor and recognition for the country in the international practical sport shooting arena," said Enrile.

Other Filipinos who figured prominently in their respective divisions were Iloilo-based Phillipp Chua who finished fourth in the revolver standard division and Nelson Uygongco who emerged as the shoot-off champion in the modified division.

The Philippine delegation was headed by PPSA president Rommel Cabungcal and PPSA Board Members Vic Mangibin and Tintin Lazaro.

RP gymnasts shine

FILIPINOS Allena Rius and Carmendo Ensomo reached the semifinals of the mixed pairs and Jhennylo Gacula landed in the top 10 of the individual youth event in the 16th International Aerobic Championship held at the Manhattan Beach Marriott, California, recently. The gymnasts' strong finishes elated Tourism Assistant Secretary Cynthia L. Carrion, also the vice president of the Gymnastics Association of the Philippines and technical chair of Sports Aerobics, who headed the delegation. The Filipinos, including Vinia Pamplona who vied in the individual category, competed against teams from 32 countries led by the United States, Argentina, Brazil, Australia and Japan.



Venus battles Serena

Sister act invades Open; Sharapova, Federer gain

NEW YORK—Venus Williams and her younger sister Serena both won their third-round matches Friday to set up the meeting everyone has been waiting to see since the draw came out 10 days ago. Everyone but the sisters, that is. If they have to play each other, they'd prefer a little bigger buildup.

SERENA (left) and Venus Williams would've preferred a later match-up. AFP REUTERS

SHARAPOVA: Breezy workout AFP

Six of their previous eight Grand Slam meetings have been in finals, with Serena winning the last five. But lower-than-usual seedings put them on course for an early matchup here. Serena, hobbled much of the year by ankle and knee injuries, is seeded eighth. Venus won Wimbledon, but is No. 10 after the flu knocked her out of two tournaments.

This is the earliest they've met at a major since the second round of the 1998 Australian Open, which Venus won in straight sets.

"It's obviously extremely disappointing to have to play my sister in the next round," Serena Williams said.

The Williams sisters aren't the only show at the Open. Frenchman Fabrice Santoro, once dubbed "The Magician" by Pete Sampras, wowed the late night crowd with some of his patented trick shots, including one flick of the wrist while he was completely turned around.

But it takes more than magic to beat No. 1 Roger Federer, who advanced, 7-5, 7-5, 7-6 (2).

Elsewhere on the women's side, top-seeded Maria Sharapova needed only five minutes to take a 3-0 lead on Julia Schruff, and then finished off the German, 6-2, 6-4. *AP*

UAAP awards . . . From page A23

The scores:

First Game (Srs)

UST 77—Ababou 20, Taylor 12, Duncil 9, Espiritu 9, Evangelista 9, Cortez 6, Dizon 4, Cuan 4, Allera 4, De Guzman 0, Canlas 0, Apil 0.

ATENEO 73—Kramer 14, Reyes 13, Intal 12, Escalona 10, Quimson 6, Barracoso 6, Aguilar 6, Laterre 2, Del Rosario 2, Tenorio 2.

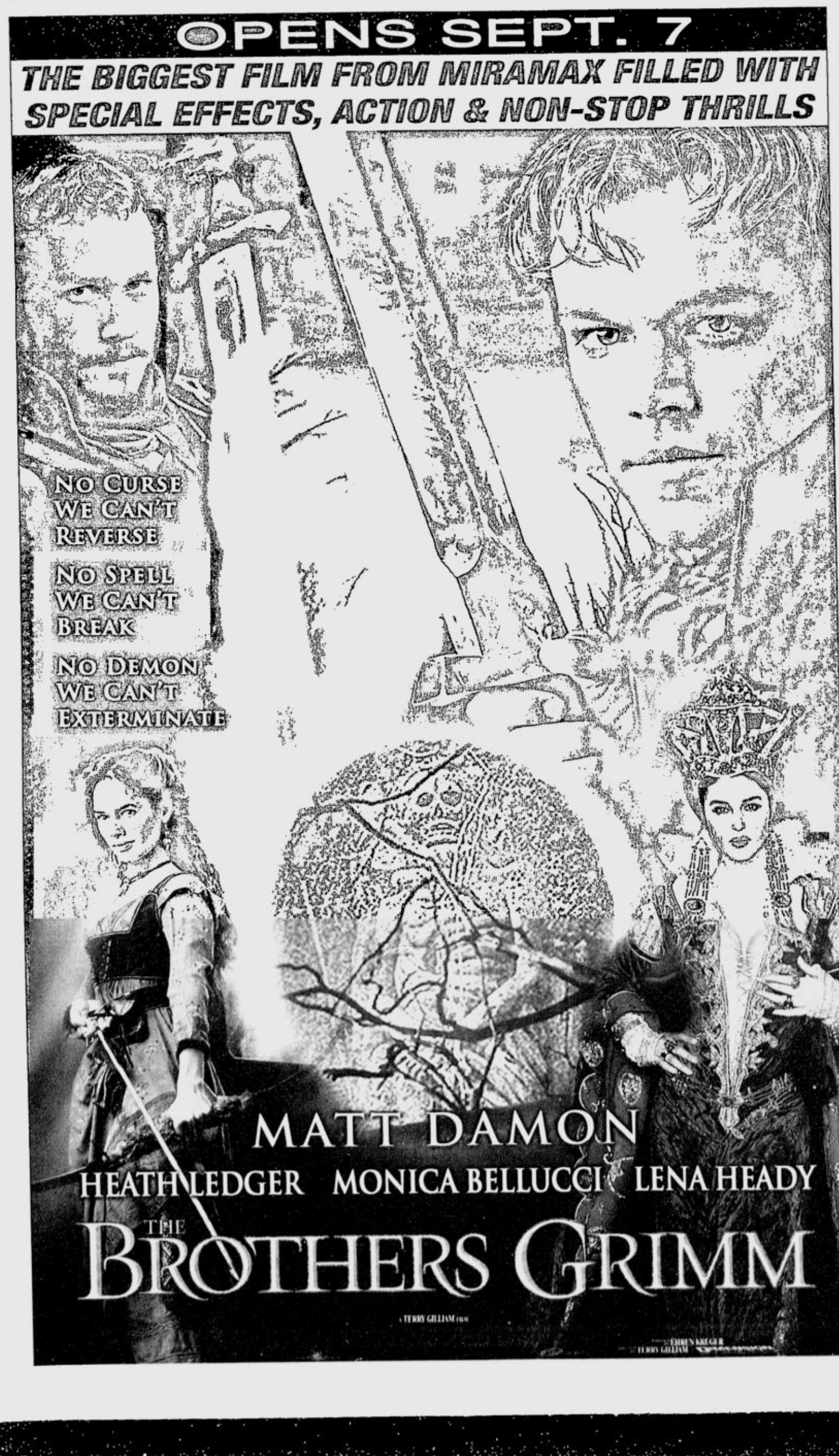
Quarters: 18-14, 42-24, 59-46, 77-73

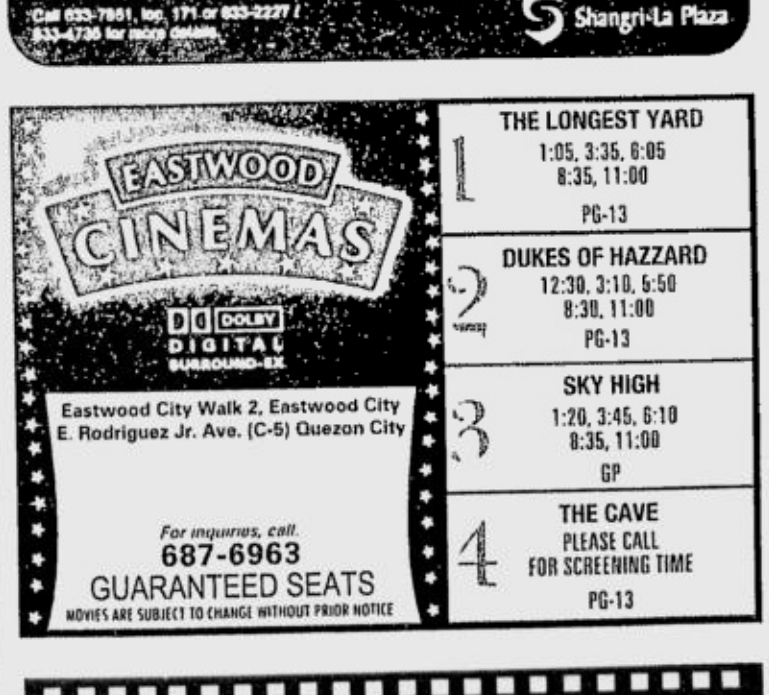
Second Game (Srs)

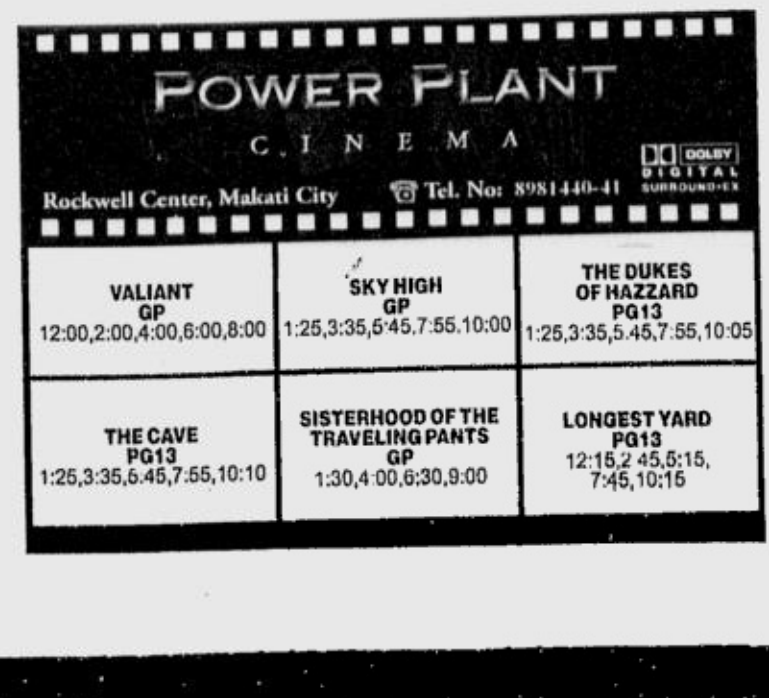
LA SALLE 59—Tang 14, Araña 10, Yeo 9, Cua 9, Villanueva 4, Maierhofer 4, Benitez 4, Aquino 3, Casio 2, Rivera 0, Cabatu 0.

UP 45—Cruz 13, Epres 9, Ferrer 7, Santos 5, David 5, Vainio 4, Padolina 1, Doruelo 1, Sorongon 0, Quebral 0, Gavino 0, Bienvenida 0.

Quarters: 15-11, 28-30, 39-40, 59-45.







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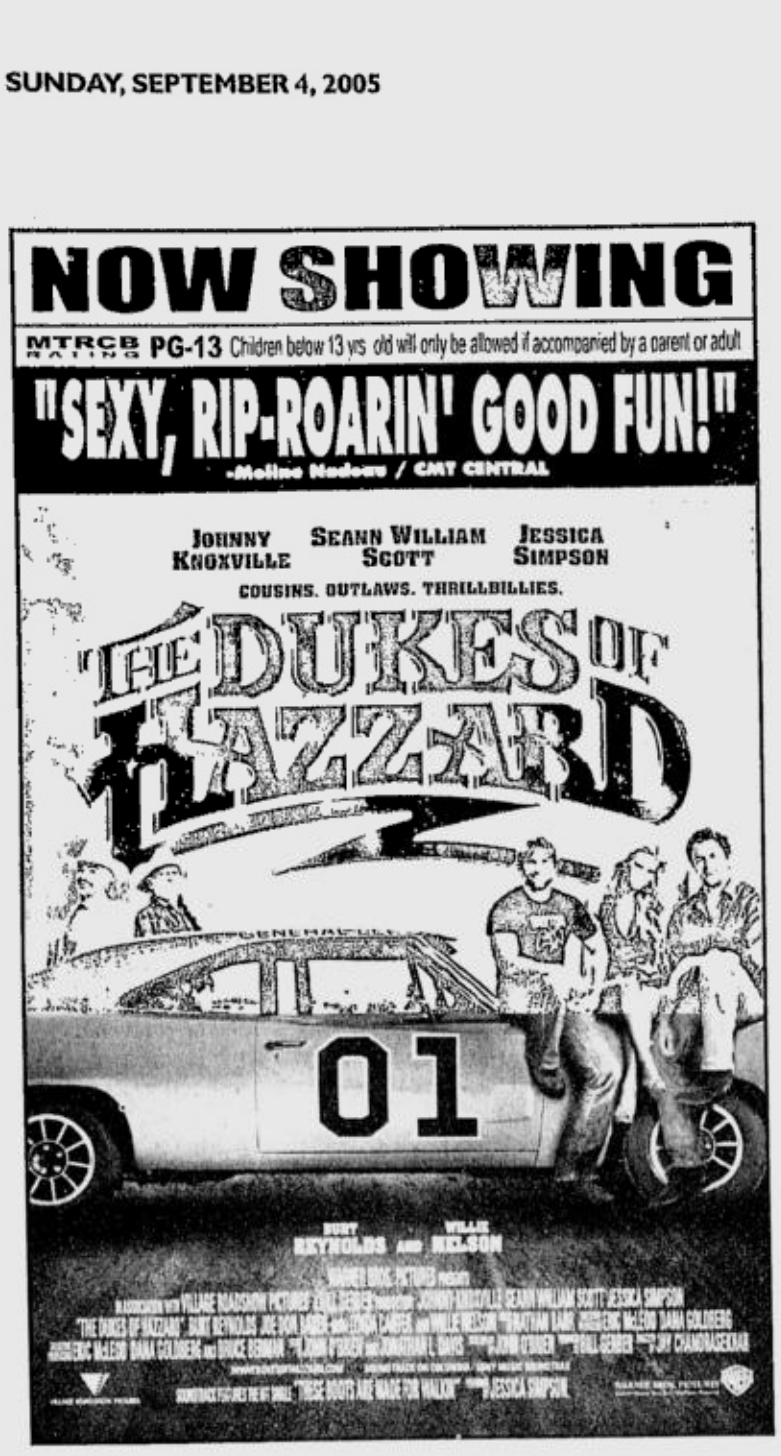

Sneak Previews on September 5 & 6!

OPENS SEPTEMBER 14

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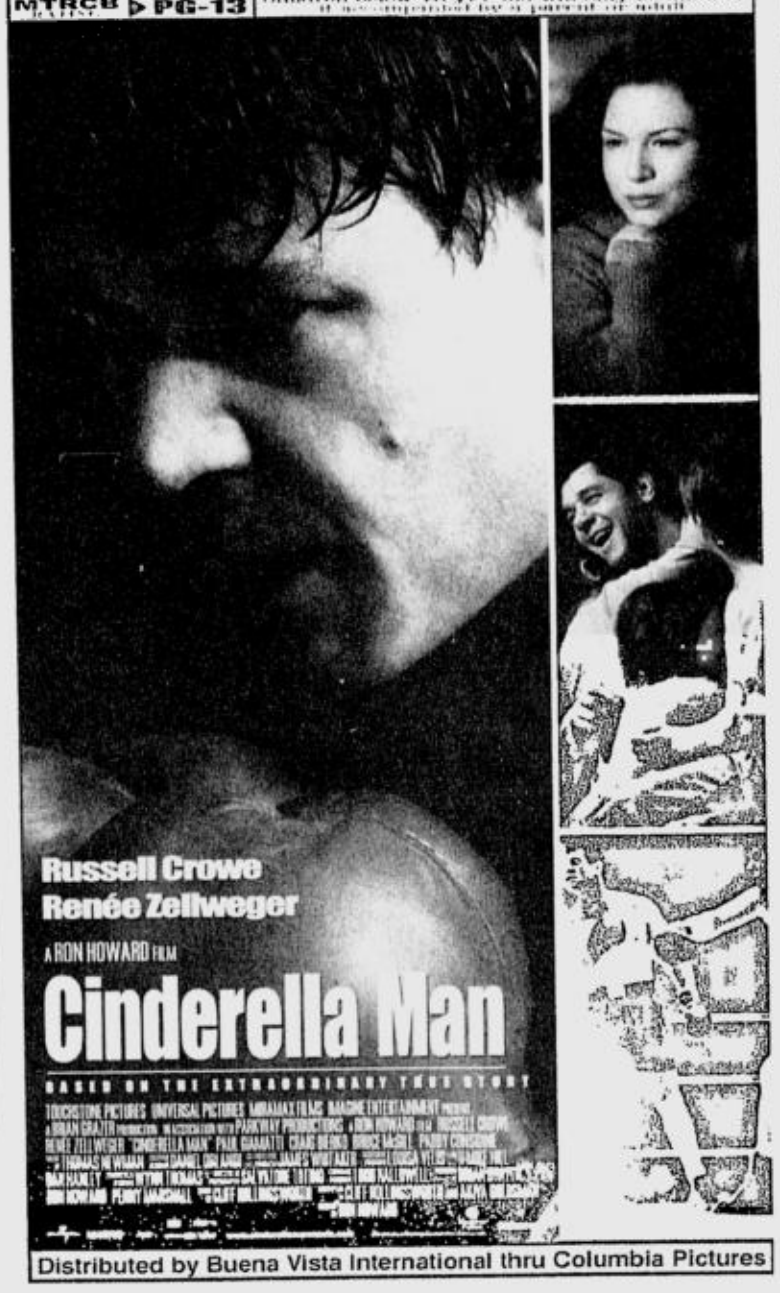

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OPENS SEPT. 7

OPENS SEPTEMBER 14

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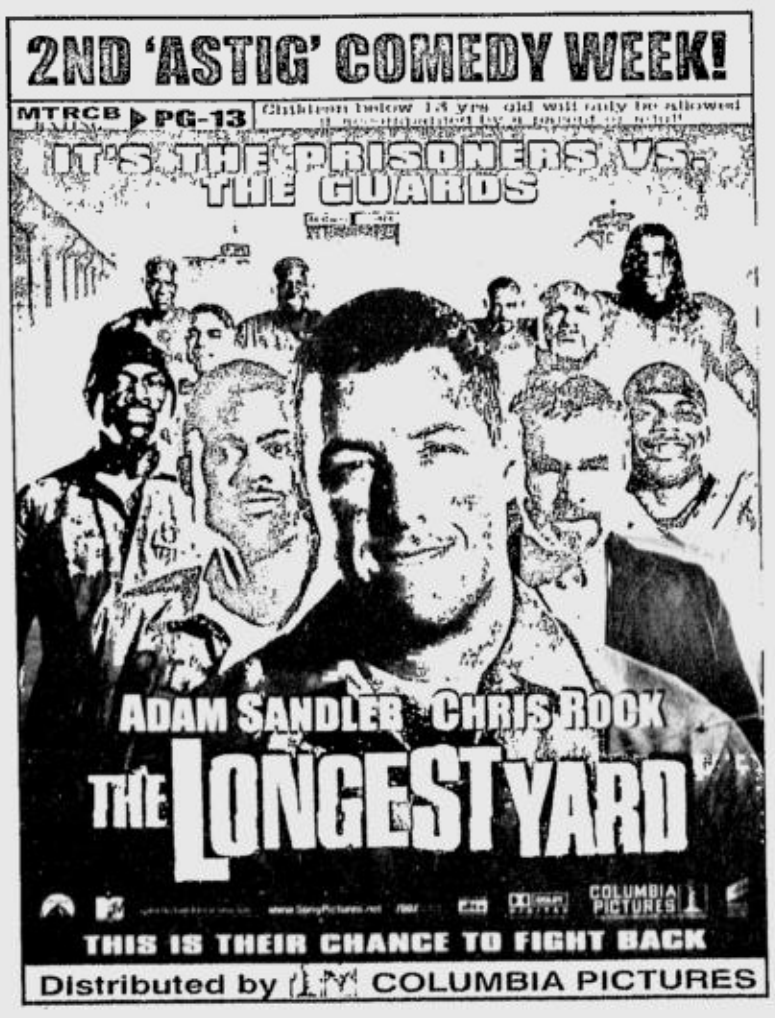

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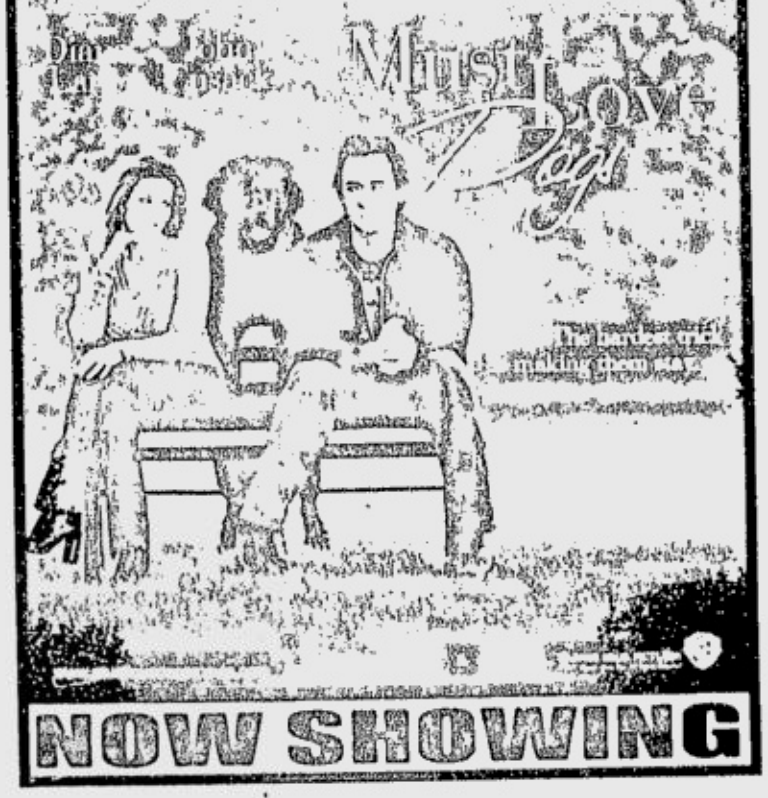

Melligen gains medal round

FILIPINO MARK Jason Melligen defeated 2001 World Cup silver medalist Dilshod of Uzbekistan in the 75 kg division Friday night in the 23rd Asian Seniors Boxing Championships at the Pan Ding Phung Stadium in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

His 22-19 victory assured Melligen of at least a bronze medal in the event. Compatriots Harry Tanamor in the 48 kg and Joan Tipon in the 54 kg division have earlier made the medal rounds.

Boxfest goes to Samar

THE AMATEUR Boxing Association of the Philippines "Go for Gold" visits Calbayog City, Western Samar, on Sept. 4 and Maasin CIty, Southern Leyte, on Sept. 6.

Sponsored by Touch Mobile, the twin events will feature leading amateur boxers and members of the national pool dubbed as the RP Ginebra boxing team.

Barangay East Awang in Calbayog City will host the Sept. 4 event also supported by Rep. Reynaldo Uy, Gov. Milagros Tan, Vice Gov. Jesus Redaja and Mayor Mel Sarmiento.

Boxing fans will converge at the Maasin City Gym on Sept. 6. The event is supported by Rep. Roger Mercado, Mayor Damian Mercado and Vice Mayor Maloney Samaco.

Lyceum prevails

LYCEUM—Calamba and defending champion St. Francis of Assisi-Bayanan fashioned out contrasting wins in the continuation of the 6th Southern Luzon Colleges and Universities Athletic Association (SLCUAA) volleyball competitions at the Brent International School Gym in Calamba. The Lyceum Matrix spikers, who are making their debut in the league this season, turned back San Pedro College of Business Administration (SPCBA), 21-25, 23-25, 25-15, 25-23, 25-12, in the premier men's event. St. Francis kept its domination in girls' volleyball as it swept past Perpetual-Molino, 25-13, 25-23, 25-21 in this 11-school league. The Dovelets stormed to their third straight victory.

Fistorama on RPN 9

FISTORAMA features this afternoon minimum weights Ricardo Albia and Gilbert dela Torre in a 10-round fight. The bout was held at the Lapu-Lapu Sports Center in Cebu. Fistorama is shown worldwide through ABS-CBN Global's The Filipino Channel/Pinoy Central TV. The event is supported by Tanduay, PCSO and Mapecon and is aired nationwide at 4 p.m., Sundays on RPN 9.

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THE CAVE 11:45FS/12:15MF/02:25/04:35/06:45 08:25LFS/09:00LFS/10:40END
MEGAMALL
THE CAVE 10:40FS/11:10MF/01:20/03:30/05:40/07:50 09:30LFS/10:00LFS/10:40END
CEBU (032) 231-3876
BEWICTHED 11:15FS/11:30MF/01:30/03:30/05:30/07:30 09:10FS/09:30LMF/11:10END
SKELETON KEY 11:15FS/11:30MF/01:30/03:30/05:30/07:30 09:15FS/09:30LMF/11:15END
THE CAVE 10:50FS/11:00MF/01:06/03:12/05:18/07:24 09:05LFS/09:30LFS/11:10END
MANILA DUKES OF HAZZARD 10:30FS/10:50MF/01:00/03:10/05:20/07:30 09:15LFS/09:40LFS/11:40END
METRO MANILA
SM MEGAMALL: 1 THE CAVE; 2 SKY HIGH; DUKES OF HAZZARD; THE GREAT RAID; 5 LONGEST YARD; CINE MANGA; EVIL EYES; 8 SKELETON KEY; 9 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE; 10 RESERVED; 11 VALIANT; 12 MUST LOVE DOGS
SM CITY FAIRVIEW: TRUTH ABOUT LOVE; EVIL EYES; VALIANT; THE GREAT RAID; D' ANOTHERS; THE CAVE; DUKES OF HAZZARD; SKY HIGH; 9 LONGEST YARD; 10 SKELETON KEY; 11 BEWITCHED; 12 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
SM NORTH EDSA: 1 THE CAVE; 2 LONGEST YARD; 3 VALIANT; 4 THE LAZARUS CHILD TBC; 5 THE GREAT RAID; 6 SKELETON KEY; DUKES OF HAZZARD; 8 SKY HIGH
SM CITY STA MESA: 1 THE CAVE; DUKES OF HAZZARD; 3 SKY HIGH; 4 LONGEST YARD; 5 PASAWAY NA MULTO; 6 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE; 7 SKELETON KEY; 8 THE GREAT RAID; 9 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS; 10 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
SM CITY SOUTHMALL: THE CAVE; SKY HIGH; DUKES OF HAZZARD; LONGEST YARD; THE GREAT RAID; SKELETONKEY; D' ANOTHERS; EVIL EYES; 9 VALIANT; 10 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
SM CITY MANILA: LONGEST YARD; SKY HIGH; TRUTH ABOUT LOVE; 4 THE CAVE; VALIANT; DUKES OF HAZZARD; BEWITCHED; MUST LOVE DOGS; THE GREAT RAID; 10 D' ANOTHERS; 11 EVIL EYES; 12 SKELETON KEYS
SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT: 1 DUKES OF HAZZARD; THE CAVE; 3 SKY HIGH; 4 LONGEST YARD
SM CITY BICUTAN: THE CAVE; DUKES OF HAZZARD; SKY HIGH; LONGEST YARD
SM SAN LAZARO: THE CAVE; 2 SKY HIGH; LONGEST YARD; 4 D' ANOTHERS; 5 SKELETON KEY; DUKES OF HAZZARD
LUZON
SM CITY PAMPANGA: SKY HIGH; VALIANT; MUST LOVE DOGS; D' ANOTHERS; BEWITCHED; 6 THE GREAT RAID
SM CITY BACOOR: 1 LONGEST YARD; 2 D' ANOTHERS; THE CAVE; 4 VALIANT; 5 SKY HIGH; PASAWAY NA MULTO; DUKES OF HAZZARD; 8 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS
SM CITY DASMARINAS: VALIANT; CRASH; SISTERHOOD IN TRAVELING PANTS; BEWITCHED
SM CITY BAGUIO: THE GREAT RAID; BEWITCHED; SKELETON KEY; CRASH
SM CITY MARILAO: MUST LOVE DOGS; SKELETON KEY; D' ANOTHERS; CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
SM CITY LUCENA: 1 IF ONLY; 2 D' ANOTHERS; 3 THE EYE INFINITY; 4 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
SM CITY BATANGAS: 1 MUST LOVE DOGS; 2 BEWITCHED; 3 CRASH; 4 THE EYE INFINITY
VISAYAS AND MINDANAO
SM CITY CEBU: BEWITCHED; SKELETON KEY; THE CAVE; 4 MUST LOVE DOGS; 5 YEAR OF THE YAO; 6 EVIL EYES; THE GREAT RAID; 8 WEDDING CRASHERS
SM CITY ILOILO: SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS; RESERVED; CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY; BEWITCHED; PUSANG GALA; SHAOLIN VS STONE WARRIOR; RESERVED; 8 THE GREAT RAID
SM CITY DAVAO: 1 MUST LOVE DOGS; 2 SHAOLIN VS STONE WARRIOR; YEAR OF THE YAO; 4 SKELETON KEY; 5 BEWITCHED; THE GREAT RAID
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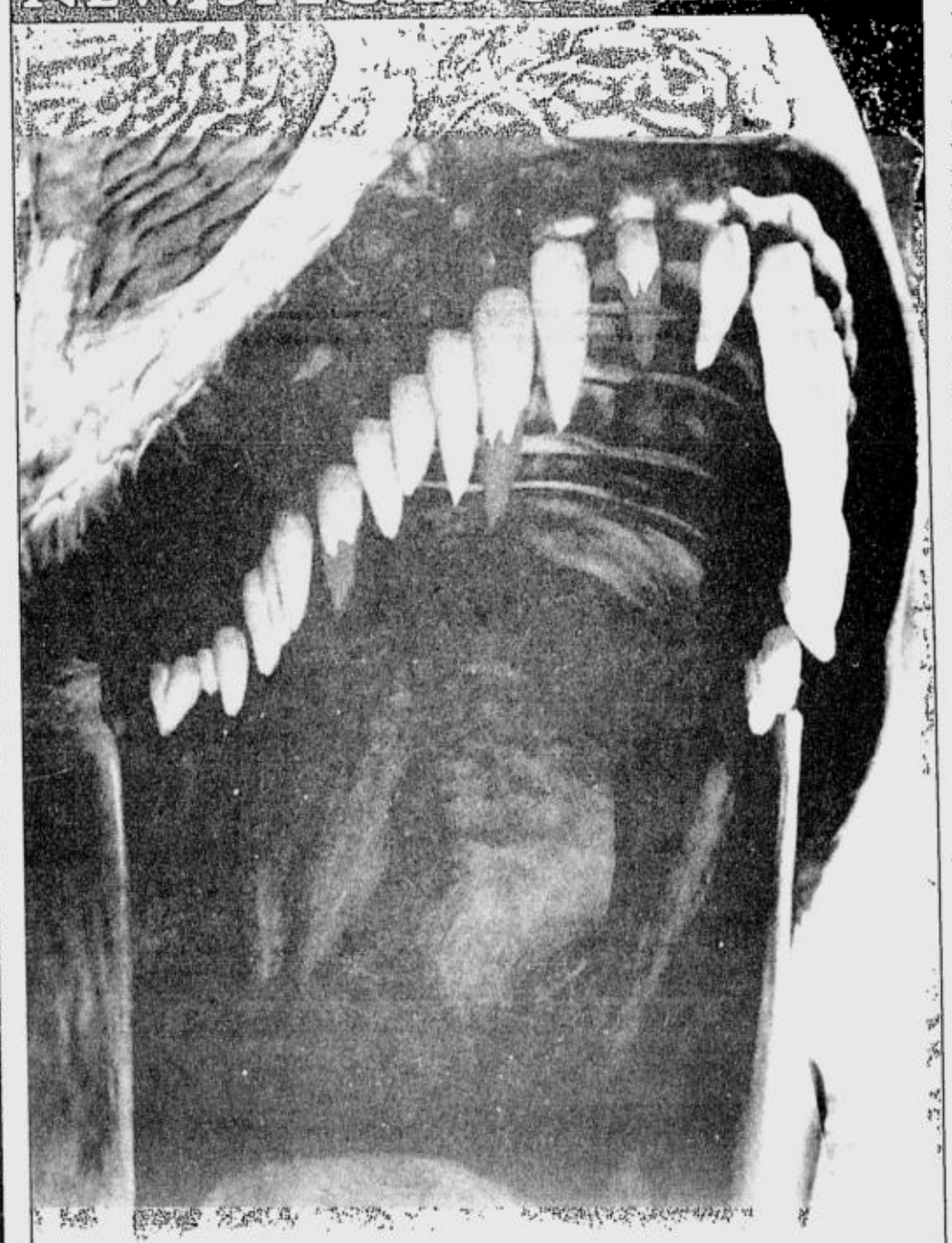

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MASTER VISIONARY RAY BRADBURY CREATES A CHILLING FUTURE.

THE EDITING OF SEVERAL INTENSE SEQUENCES IS COMMENDABLE... WE CAN'T WAIT FOR SOME TRUTHS TO BE REVEALED...WATCH IT TWICE. OLIVER M. PULUMBARIT - Philippine Daily Inquirer
3RD WEEK
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"SHIVERS DOWN THE SPINE, A RACING HEART...ONE MUST SEE MOVIE." ...Yahoo Movies
THE SKELETON KEY
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GALLERIA 632-9118

1 THE LONGEST YARD • THX
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

6 THE CAVE
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

2 SKY HIGH
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

7 D' ANOTHERS
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

3 VALIANT
1:40 3:40 5:40 7:40 9:40

8 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00

4 THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS
12:00 2:20 4:50 7:20 9:50

9 THE GREAT RAID
12:00 2:20 5:00 7:40 10:00

5 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

10 MUST LOVE DOGS
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

ERMITA 536-7809 to 17

1 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

2 EVIL EYES
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

5 THE LONGEST YARD
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

3 VALIANT
12:00 1:30 3:00 5:00 7:30 9:50
THE GREAT RAID

6 SKY HIGH
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

4 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50

7 THE CAVE
10:20 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:20 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 682-8199

1 EVIL EYES
1:40 4:00 6:20 9:00

5 THE LONGEST YARD
1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

2 THE CAVE
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

6 SKY HIGH
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

3 D' ANOTHERS
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

7 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

4 THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS
12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00

8 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

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1 D' ANOTHERS
2 EVIL EYES
3 CAMPUS GHOST STORIES
4 COACH CARTER

1 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
2 SKY HIGH
3 THE CAVE
4 THE LONGEST YARD

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1 SKY HIGH
2 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
3 SHANGHAI LILY
4 SHAOLIN VS. STONE WARRIOR

1 ARAHAN
2 MUST LOVE DOGS
3 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 WEDDING CRASHERS

DASMARIÑAS (046) 854-2125 (046) 416-1332 ANGELES (045) 892-2244

1 THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS
2 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
3 CRASH
4 BEWITCHED

1 SHAOLIN VS. STONE WARRIOR
2 MUST LOVE DOGS
3 SKY HIGH
4 EVIL EYES

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1 THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS
2 THE LONGEST YARD
3 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
4 SKY HIGH

1 D' ANOTHERS
2 SKY HIGH
3 MUST LOVE DOGS
4 BEWITCHED
5 VALIANT
6 THE GREAT RAID

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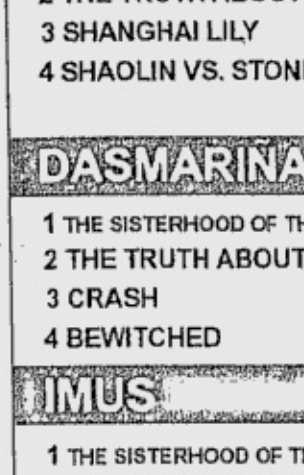
1 THE GREAT RAID
2 WEDDING CRASHERS
3 BEWITCHED
4 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
5 CRASH
6 MGA PUSANG GALA

1 THE GREAT RAID
2 BEWITCHED
3 MGA PUSANG GALA
4 THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS



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THX

Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729 7777

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 SKY HIGH	2 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD	3 THE LONGEST YARD	4 THE CAVE
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 THE LONGEST YARD	2 SKELETON KEY	3 THX SKY HIGH 12:05, 2:10, 4:15, 6:20, 8:25, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS	5 VALIANT	6 THE CAVE	7 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 CINEMANILA ADVANCE SCREENING For screening schedule, call 750-4180 to 81		2 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40	
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX SKELETON KEY 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX THE CAVE 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE 2:45, 4:45, 6:45, 8:45, 10:45 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE LONGEST YARD 2:00, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 SKY HIGH 2:20, 4:30, 6:40, 8:50, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX THE CAVE		2 SKY HIGH	
	3 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD	4 VALIANT	5 THE LONGEST YARD	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 THE CAVE	2 MUST LOVE DOGS	3 WEDDING CRASHERS	4 YEAR OF THE YAO

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

A2-1

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Editor Emmie G. Velarde

ENTERTAINMENT

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Matt finds a new bro in Heath

DAMON did not go to his best friend's (Ben Affleck) wedding.

LOS ANGELES—**Matt Damon** may be heir to **Tom Hanks'** title, Mr. Nice Guy, but he certainly also knows how to dish.

Flashing that golden boy smile, Matt said of his "The Brothers Grimm" co-star **Heath Ledger's** black-and-white striped shirt: "He just came from a mime class." Heath could only smile when told of Matt's teasing at a room in the Four Seasons hotel. With his shaved head and the odd striped top, the Aussie actor and would-be dad was obviously not striving to keep the Mr. Heartthrob title today.

The two are cast as "The Brothers Grimm" in director **Terry Gilliam's** wild, dark and visually sumptuous version of how these German brothers, **Jacob** and **Wilhelm**, came to compile the classic fairy tales that we've all been reared on. But in Gilliam's vision, these are not your Disney fairy tales. The following are excerpts of our separate interviews with Matt and Heath.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

MATT DAMON

Whenever Terry Gilliam makes a film, there are almost always problems and controversies. How much of a nightmare was this to make?

For Heath and me, it was a fairy tale to work with Terry. We learned so much. Heath and I both want to direct, and it was like a master class in directing, watching Terry work. With his attention to detail, Terry is unlike anyone I've ever worked with. If there were problems, he cleared it up a little bit with the studio early on. The shooting part of it was great. It was exciting to go to work every day. The crew got very close because we were all over in Prague. On the weekends, we'd go bowling together. It was pretty much an idyllic working situation.

What did you find out about these two brothers?

We found that they are these wonderful scholars who were models of collaboration all through their lives till their deaths. They were guys who became very powerful and influential. Jacob was a very powerful politician in Germany. Basically, it was a time when the Germans were embarrassed about their culture and their folk tales in the face of the French, who were supposed to be so much more civilized. What the brothers Grimm did was unearth these folk tales and this oral history. They wrote it down. Suddenly, the Germans went, our history isn't barbaric—it's wonderful and beautiful. So they were very important figures.

All of that got thrown out when we made the movie. Because the characters that we play have nothing to do with the real brothers Grimm. Researching the brothers was interesting as a sidebar to the whole experience—it basically told us how much license we were taking, more than anything.

When we first met you, it was always Ben (Affleck, his childhood buddy) and Matt. Now it's Ben and Jen (Jennifer Garner, Ben's wife).

All I want is happiness for them. And to see Ben this happy is really great. I know he's going to be a terrific father. So I'm excited for him more than anything.

So you don't get to see Ben as much as you used to?

Because we're working so much. But it's been like that since "Good Will Hunting" (for which script they shared the 1997 Oscar Best Screenplay award). We've been all over the world working for eight years now. I think that in the back of our minds, we are hoping that there'll be a time when things slow down enough for us to get to hang out a little more.

In this summer of Brangelina and Bennifer, how have you managed to be not part of the media/paparazzi circus?

It just worked out that way for me so far. It's because I live a very normal life. I'm so boring that there's just absolutely no story there. What helps is that my girlfriend (**Luciana Barroso**) is not famous. She's not a celebrity. Just from my own experience and watching, things get magnified when two celebrities are involved. It's not like one plus one makes two. It's one plus one makes five. Suddenly there's all this intensity and intrigue.

As long as I'm not doing anything like knocking out photographers, then there's no story. It's not really worth anybody's time to follow me and take my picture. Because they're going to see pictures of a guy getting in a car, going to work, coming home, going to sleep and going to the gym. Nothing too exciting. This is the perfect situation for me because I'm allowed to do the kind of work that I want to do and still have a life.

Did Ben invite you to his wedding?

No. He just called and let me know. They did it very fast. They wanted to keep it their own. They knew if word got out there would be helicopters and their moment would be hijacked from them. So they just did it very quickly. Everyone who's close to them is happy that they did it that way.

HEATH LEDGER

In your case, what did you find out about the brothers?

They wrote half the German dictionary at one point in their lives. Terry had a completely different idea as to how the story was going. Matt and I were very happy about that. It gave us a clean slate to create two quirky characters. In one scene where **Peter Stormare** picks up a knife and throws it, Matt and I did this scream. At the

MATT/ A2-2

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THE BROTHERS GRIMM:

Matt Damon and Monica Bellucci in a romantic scene in "The Brothers Grimm"

A $120M budgeted film from Miramax

Acclaimed director **Terry Gilliam** brings his magical storytelling talents to the screen in Miramax's $120M "**The Brothers Grimm**", turning their lives into a playfully grim fairy tale all its own.

"**The Brothers Grimm**" stars **Matt Damon** ("*The Bourne Supremacy*") as Will Grimm and **Heath Ledger** as Jake Grimm, siblings who travel the countryside as snake-oil salesmen, convincing unsuspecting villagers that their towns are haunted and agreeing to get rid of the demons--for a price.

In the meantime, they set their tales down in writing, creating a wealth of oddball, offbeat, and frightening characters. Soon they are caught by **General Delatombe** (*Jonathan Pryce*) and his sidekick, **Cavaldi** (*Peter Stormare*) and they are sent to the tiny village of Marbaden to solve the mysterious disappearance of a number of young girls, placing them in the middle of a world unlike any they'd ever invented.

They enlist the help of a peasant woman, **Angelika** (*Lena Headey*), and they set off for the evil forest to save the lives of the girls--and themselves. Gilliam has once again built a unique enchanted land where anything can happen, and he throws in references to such Grimm tales as *Little Red Riding Hood*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *Cinderella*, *Rapunzel*, and *The Frog Prince* for good measure. **Monica Bellucci** stars as *The Mirror Queen*. Witches, goblins, trolls, werewolves and cannibal trees prowl the dark forests in "The Brothers Grimm"... stunning visual effects, spectacular action and non- stop thrills awaits moviegoers.

The Real Brothers Grimm - Jakob and Wilhelm Grimm

The Brothers Grimm are well-known for publishing collections of enchanted fairy tales in Germany during their lifetimes.

English translations of the 7th edition (1857) remain popular, and they exist now predominantly as highly expurgated and saccharine versions intended for children, even though the folk tales that the Grimms had collected had not been previously considered stories for children.

Selection of Fairy Tales by the Brothers Grimm:

The Pied Piper of Hamelin
Little Red Riding Hood
Bluebeard — *Cinderella*
The Frog Prince — *The Golden Goose*
Hansel and Gretel — *Rumpelstiltskin*
Rapunzel — *Sleeping Beauty*
Snow White — *Tom Thumb*

Their Works:

In 2002, the Brothers Grimm were depicted on the 1000 Deutsche Mark note – Germany's largest available denomination in circulation.

ADVT.

Matt finds . . .

From page A2-1

end of the take, we looked at each other. In the next take, Peter threw the knife again, we screamed louder and we ran behind a table. We both went, this is what we're going to do—we're going to be cowards.

One of the producers, **Chuck Robin**, came over to us, and said, so you guys are screaming like little girls. We're like, yeah, we know. He asked, are you going to play it like this for the rest of the film? Yeah, actually. And only Terry would allow us to do that. It was just so refreshing, as opposed to being asked to be brave in the face of danger all the time.

The brothers Grimm are different—one is a playboy, the other one is a dreamer. Which one do you identify with?

I am a dreamer. I've always been easily cast as the other type but it's always been very boring to me that people have done that. That's why it was a brilliant opportunity to play at this pace. When I sat down with Terry when I first met him, my hands, as you can see, just go everywhere, when I'm nervous or if I'm talking. They go faster than my mind. I was that way in front of Terry. He started giggling. I thought, what's he giggling about. He's like, that's great, what you're doing is great. That's what I want.

So for the first time, I wasn't being asked to suck in my energy. I did not have to tie my hands down. I could express. So I did. On top of that, I ate a s- -tload of chocolate throughout the shoot to keep me hyperactive. That was the key, chocolate—**Harvey's** (**Weinstein**, Miramax honcho) chocolate.

So are you now living in Brooklyn, instead of Hollywood or Australia?

I really appreciate Brooklyn because, quite frankly, no one gives a s- -t there. Sydney—Bronte—is scaring me at the moment. I feel like the paparazzi are going to kick me out of that city. I do not feel like living there any more. It's a shame. Because I absolutely love it. It's breaking my heart. Because you can't go back there. You cannot do anything. You don't want to go with your wife and your kids down to the beach and swim when there are 10 people photographing you. It really is awful. So unfortunately, that's keeping me away from Australia. A lot of other people I know feel the same way.

The best thing about Brooklyn is, it's removed. The paparazzi wouldn't even know how to get to Carroll Gardens in Brooklyn. So I just live a really normal life. I lug my laundry down to the laundromat. I keep the house nice and tidy and clean. I go shopping at the supermarket. I cook. I commute on the train back and forth, in and out of town. I sit and I observe all these people around me, all these lives and these stories. It's really stimulating. I feel like I'm really living for the first time. It's wonderful.

You have three important movies—this one, Lasse Hallstrom's "Casanova" and Ang Lee's much-awaited "Brokeback Mountain" (about two cowboys who unexpectedly fall in love). Are you finally making the decision as to which films to accept?

Yes. Over the last year, starting from "Grimm," these movie roles were my choices. Prior to that, the choices were being made for me. Now, I pick with as much diversity as I could in each role. I really wanted to try and transport myself. I've come to the conclusion that I will never be able to grow in roles where I still see myself. I think I'm crap. I just cannot get past that. I'm certainly after longevity. I don't want to explode for a short period of time. I would like to be around for a while. I'm just going to keep making choices from my heart and instinct instead of from a checkbook.

How do you feel about becoming a father (he and actress Michelle Williams are expecting a baby in November)? Are you preparing in any way?

Just huge amounts of excitement. I can't wait to meet my child. We've been preparing, yeah. We're both fit, healthy and happy. That's all you can ask for.

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.)

WITH Heath Ledger, left, in "Brothers Grimm": "We learned a lot from Terry Gilliam."

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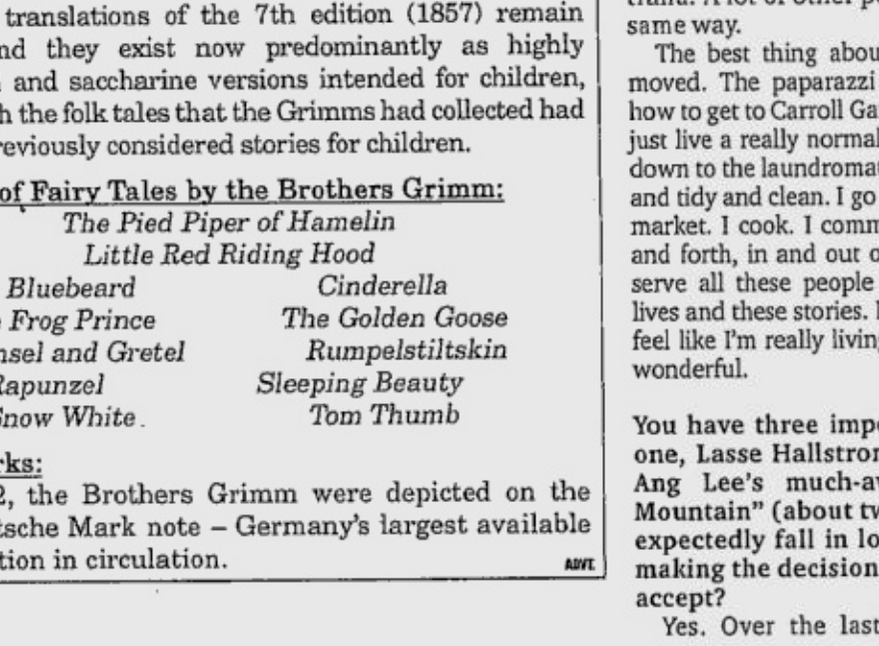

THE LONG WEEKEND
TWO BROTHERS. ONE WEEKEND. AND A WHOLE LOT OF SEX.
OPENS SEPTEMBER 7
VIVA

MTRCB RATING PG-13 | A WARNING TO PARENTS BRINGING-IN CHILDREN BELOW 13 YRS. OLD: THE FILM CONTAINS TREMENDOUS HORROR AND BLOODY SCENES IN FIGHTING THE INHUMAN CREATURES
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THE CAVE

Extreme test of patience

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THERE are all sorts of reality shows on free and cable TV these days, but "Boiling Points" on MTV stands out with its unique format: Its resident actors assault clueless people with acts of terrible nastiness calculated to piss them off—then awards each patient survivor $100 for *not* walking out or punching the rude, crude assaulters in the nose.

Last Sunday, the show led off with a situation set on a beach, with a nasty man taking pictures of sunbathing women's butts with his cell phone.

Most of the women initially tried to get rid of the brash, crass paparazzo without resorting to visual or verbal violence. But he was so relentlessly boorish and incorrigible that they soon lost their temper!

Only a couple of really patient souls managed to go the allotted distance, and each of them got the preferred monetary prize. We were amazed that they had been so patient despite all of the aggravation that the show's cast member kept throwing their way. How understanding and forgiving can you get?

The second aggravation inducer was set in a bowling alley, with a sexy interloper brazenly flirting with other women's boyfriends. The men kept their cool and looked even flattered that such a hot chick was coming on to them in so forthright a fashion—but their girlfriends were fit to be tied!

As expected, most of the outraged women screamed at the brazen hussy, or threw things at her, so only two of them collected their prize. Maybe they didn't love their boyfriends all that much?

Next, the show hit on the female students at a yoga class, with a male classmate ruining their meditative concentration with lewd remarks and gestures. Now, you would think that yoga practitioners would be more patient than most, but the assaulting male was so nasty that most of his victims lost their cool—big time! So much for yoga power....

Finally, the show set its sights on an Internet café, with its nasty agent distracting the other customers with his abrasive comments. He accused a man of accessing a porn site, and generally infuriated the other customers with his abrasive, insulting comments. Well, most of them reached their boiling points real quick!

Some weeks ago, we caught an earlier telecast of the show that was similarly eventful and hilarious. One of its aggravating situations featured a man pestering people to buy unwanted produce in a supermarket. You can imagine how ticked off *they* were!

Aside from its humor quotient, the show is viewable because it teaches viewers how to keep their cool—no matter how horribly other people treat them. Hey, in today's increasingly irritating and stressful world, we could all use more of that!

'Operanow'

THIRTY of the country's finest classical performers are featured in "Operanow," a gala musical showcase at the CCP on Sept. 14. Presented by the Philippine Opera Company and the CCP, the presentation is made up of excerpts from operatic masterpieces like "La Boheme," "Aida," "La Traviata," "Carmen," "Madame Butterfly" "Porgy and Bess" and "The Magic Flute."

Performers include **Jai Sabas-Aracama, Nolyn Cabahug, Anna Feleo, Jay Glorioso, Lorna Llames, Kitchy Molina** and **Patrice Pacis. Floy Quintos** directs. Call 832-3681.

'Little Manhattan'

THE NEW film "Little Manhattan" is about a 10-year-old boy awakened by feelings of infatuation. Gabe (**Josh Hutcherson**) falls in love for the first time, and his classmate, Rosemary, is the object of his juvenile affection.

The movie also stars **Cynthia Nixon** as Gabe's mother, who learns, a thing or two about love from her young son.

On Hallmark Channel

MUST-SEE highlights this September on the Hallmark Channel include the drama series "ReGenesis" (Mondays at 10:35 p.m.); the second season of "Bewitched" (M-F at 2:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.); "Strong Medicine's" third season (Wednesdays at 10:35 p.m.); the hit reality show "Wife Swap 2" (Fridays at 10:35 p.m.); and the popular sitcom "Ladies Man" (Sept. 1-7 at 2 and 6:30 p.m.) and "Ladies Man 2" (Sept. 8-20 at 2 and 6:30 p.m.).

SPIN CITY

FIRST IN 4 YEARS

Paul McCartney's first album in four years, "Chaos and Creation in the Back Yard," will be in record stores Sept. 12. It is McCartney's 20th studio recording since the Beatles. The new 13-track collection was recorded in London and Los Angeles. Its release coincides with the Sept. 16 launch of the singer-songwriter's 37-city US tour.

AUDIE Gemora

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

'Footloose' bets Jay-R and Nikki

From page A2-4

that she's a funny girl.

Do you find performing in a musical more difficult?

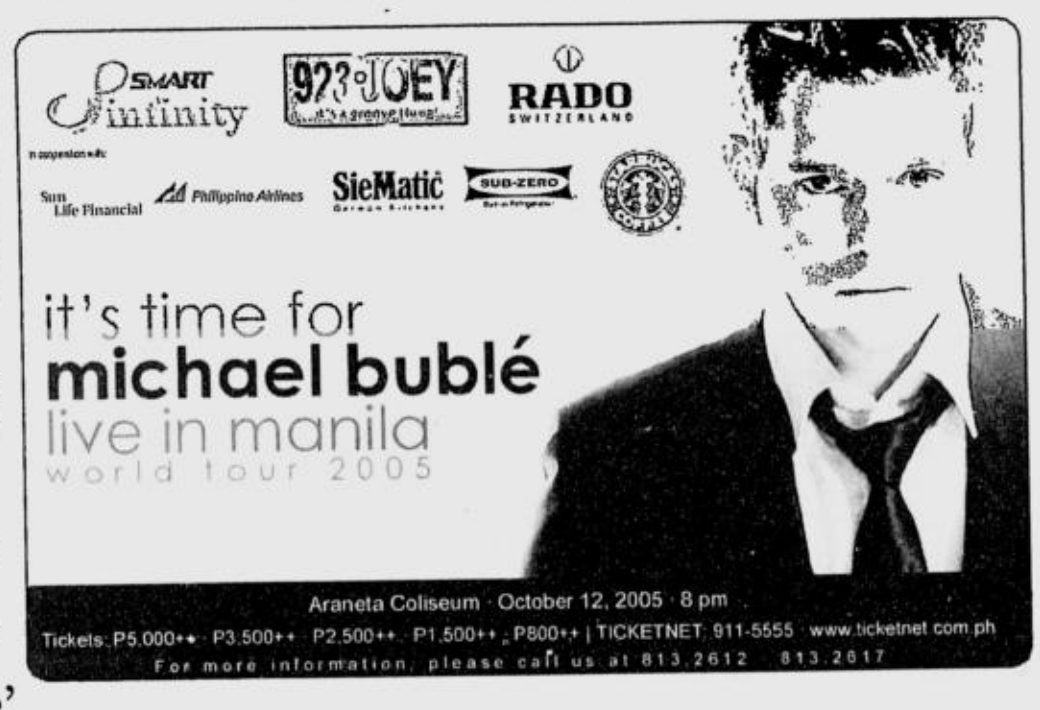
J: This is my biggest challenge since I joined the performing arts here. It's even harder than doing concerts.

N: It's hard to sing while dancing. Singing in theater is very different from singing for TV. I prayed hard to get a role in this production. I know this would revive my singing career. This would also hone my dancing skills. *Iba ang* dancing *dito*. Power Dance and Maneuovres taught us.

What was the audition like? Rumor says Stages really wanted you to be part of the show, especially Jay-R.

J: During the audition, they were all poker-faced. They simply said, "OK, we'll call you." I didn't prepare for this. I didn't know what was going to happen. I was happy when I learned that they picked me.

N: They showed no sign that they were interested. My audition piece was "Have You Ever Been in Love" by Celine Dion. It's a lucky song. Every time I sing that for whatever I audition for, *pasok naman ako*.



Araneta Center Leisure Guide

Rim-bending hip-hop hoops!

Streetball Challenge 2005 | adidas

Meet & greet NBA sensation Sebastian Telfair!

Today

ARANETA COLISEUM

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SKY HIGH 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30	SKY HIGH 1:30 / 4:00 — THE DUKES OF HAZZARD 6:35 / 9:00
THE CAVE 1:35 / 4:10 / 6:45 / 9:20	SKELETON KEY 1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40
LONGEST YARD 2:10 / 4:40 / 7:10 / 9:40	THE GREAT RAID 1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:00
THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00	MUST LOVE DOGS 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20

ALI MALL CINEMAS

1 SKY HIGH 12:35 / 3:05 / 5:35 / 8:05	4 D' ANOTHERS 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
2 THE CAVE 12:50 / 3:25 / 6:00 / 8:35	5 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD 12:50 / 3:15 / 5:40 / 8:05
3 THE LONGEST YARD 12:45 / 3:15 / 5:45 / 8:15	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS

ADIDAS ASIAN STREETBALL FINALS 2005 *September 4, Sunday 9am - 5pm*	NCAA CHEERING COMPETITION *September 7, Wednesday 2pm*
THE CASCADES ENCORE *September 9, Friday 8pm*	*Sep.10* UST vs NU *Jrs 9:30am* UE vs UP *Jrs 11:30am* *Saturday* UST vs NU *Srs 2pm* UE vs UP *Srs 4pm*

CENTER EVENTS

SALE EVENT	*Fornarina Sale ongoing until September 16 at the Upper Ground Floor of Gateway Mall*
NEW STORES	*Mandarin Oriental Cafe & Deli now open at the Upper Ground Floor of Gateway Mall, KFC now open at the Third Floor of Farmers Plaza*

LOG ON TO www.araneta center.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

MMTA

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MOVIE GUIDE

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Telephone: 633.2227 / 6337851 loc. 171

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2 (DOLBY)	THE CAVE PG13
3 (DOLBY)	SKY HIGH GP
4 (DOLBY)	THE DUKES OF HAZZARD PG13
PREMIERE	
(DOLBY)	THE LONGEST YARD PG13

Filinvest Festival Cinema
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	THE GREAT RAID
2 (SDDS)	ARE WE THRE YET
3 (DTS)	CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 (GOLD DTS)	DUKE OF HAZZARD
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	CAVE
6 GOLD (SDDS)	LONGEST YARD
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	SKY HIGH
8 (DOLBY STEREO)	VALIANT
9 (DOLBY STEREO)	TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
10 (DOLBY STEREO)	SKELETON KEY

Eastwood Cinemas
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	LONGEST YARD
2 (DOLBY)	DUKE OF HAZZARD
3 (DOLBY)	SKY HIGH
4 (DOLBY)	CAVE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1	DUKE OF HAZZARD
2	CAVE
3	SKY HIGH
4	LONGEST YARD

Blue Wave Mall Antipolo
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY)	SKY HIGH
2 (DOLBY)	DUKE OF HAZZARD
3 (DOLBY)	LONGEST YARD
4 (DOLBY)	THE CAVE

Cinema 2000
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1	ALONE IN THE DARK
2 (DTS)	TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
3 (DOLBY)	SHAOLIN VS' STONE WARRIOR
4	SKY HIGH

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Binan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
2 (DOLBY)	SKY HIGH
3 (DTS)	SHAOLIN VS' STONE WARRIOR
4	DARKNESS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	THE EYE INFINITY
2	PUSANG GALA
3 (DOLBY)	WEDDING CRASHER

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	PUSANG GALA
2	EVIL EYE
3 (DOLBY)	ARAHAN
4 (DTS)	IF ONLY

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1	MUST LOVE DOG
2	CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
3 (DOLBY)	ARAHAN

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1 (DOLBY)	SKY HIGH
2	CAVE
3	RESERVED
4	PASAWAY
5	DUKE OF HAZZARD

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1	RESERVED
2	RESERVED
3	KAULAYAW
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	SKY HIGH
5	CAVE

Metropolis Star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994

1	LAMAT
2	D' ANOTHERS
3	RESERVED
4	RESERVED
5 (DOLBY)	SKY HIGH
6	CAVE

Starmall Movies
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1	CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2	

Mandaluyong Marketplace
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	MONSTER IN LAW
2	CAMPUS GHOST STORY
3	RESERVED
4	SA PAGITAN NG LANGIT

Masagana Cinema
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	SKY HIGH
2	THE CAVE
3	BALAHIBONG PUSA

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1	THE GREAT RAID
2	BEWITCHED

Jade Cinema
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1 (DOLBY ES)	SKY HIGH
2	THE EVIL EYE
3 (DTS ES)	MUST LOVE DOGS
4	SHAOLIN VS' EVIL DEAD

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1	THE EVIL EYE
2	SHAOLIN VS' EVIL DEAD
3 (DOLBY)	SKY HIGH
4 (DTS)	MUST LOVE DOGS

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1	MSOMIA D/W RING OF NIVELUNGS
2	ARAHAN
3 (DOLBY)	EYE INFINITY
4	WEDDING CRASHERS D/W POLICE STORY

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2	PUSANG GALA

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	THUNDER MISSION
2	ITLOG
3	HINOG SA PILIT
4 (DTS)	PASAWAY

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	SKY HIGH
2	PUSANG GALA
3 (DTS)	SHAOLIN VS' STONE WARRIOR
4	SAGAD
5	TRUTH ABOUT LOVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	ARAHAN
2	SHUT UP AND KISS ME
3	KALAPATI SA GABI
4	MUST LOVE DOGS

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	SAPLOT
2	BENEATH LOCKNES

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

ABS-CBN NEWS & CURRENT AFFAIRS

SEPT 04 - SEPT 10 2005

NEWS GUIDE

TV PATROL WORLD / NIGHTLY
See how a Citizen Patrol from Dapitan, Manila gathered the vendors and the city fire department for a major "palengke clean-up".

INSIDER / NIGHTLY
Personalities in the news sit down with Atty. Dong Puno for a straight forward one-on-one in *Deretsahan*.

THE CORRESPONDENTS / MON / 11:30PM
The clock is ticking down for the aged women of Correctional. Hear their plea for clemency and how they would want to spend the remaining days of their lives.

NEWS PATROL / DAILY
10AM 12NN 2PM 4PM
Get updated all day long on the opposition's persistence to resurrect the impeachment case against PGMA.

MAGANDANG UMAGA PILIPINAS / DAILY
Know this month's top successful men and women in the world of politics and entertainment.

ANC / DAILY
We keep watch of the impeachment complaint as opposition pursues to gather 79 signatures from Congress.

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'Footloose' bets Jay-R and Nikki

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE DILEMMA of theater producers these days is that they need to hire a star in order for their show to sell," said Stages president Audie Gemora, who cast "R&B Prince" Jay-R in his latest project, "Footloose."

Other show biz celebrities included in the Trumpets' production of Dean Pitchford's musical are Iya Villania, Nikki Valdez and Maoui David.

"The first thing a ticket buyer asks is, who is the star of the show—this is before they even ask what the show is about. So you're pressured to get a star for your show," Gemora told a group of entertainment writers in a recent gathering in Quezon City. "But deep in your heart, you know that any of the guys [in your theater company] can perform the role well."

He added: "That's the struggle with commercialism and the arts. Sometimes, you need to get somebody who's popular and very good, and then you get somebody who also deserves to play that role."

Thus, Jay-R and Jonard Yanzon, a Stages talent, alternate as Ren McCormack, the lead character in "Footloose." Iya plays the strong-willed town girl Ariel Moore and Nikki portrays the wacky Wendy Jo.

"Footloose" is showing at the Meralco Theater Fridays and Saturdays for the whole month of September. Chari Arespacochaga directs.

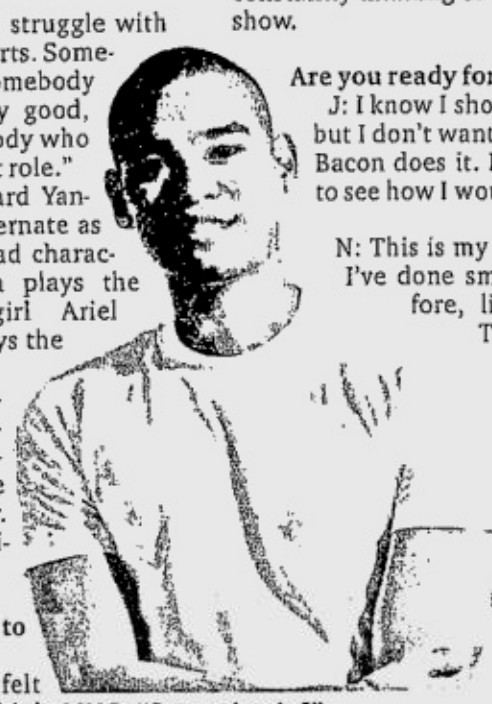
NIKKI Valdez: "It's hard to sing while dancing."

TAKE FIVE

What's your reaction to Audie's statement?

Jay-R: That actually felt good. It's flattering to think that Stages thought of me as *the* star who could get more people to watch the show. Star *na pala ako*? But it kind of adds pressure.

Nikki: We have to admit that people watch—even if the story is not too great—just because of the stars. We *artistas* really have to prove ourselves. Because of this, we are constantly thinking of ways to improve the show.



JAY-R: "Star *na ba ako*?"

Are you ready for the role?

J: I know I should do my research, but I don't want to know how Kevin Bacon does it. I want the audience to see how I would do it.

N: This is my first major musical. I've done small productions before, like 'Ibong Adarna.' This is really big for me. They (Stages) wanted me to gain weight for the play. I said I couldn't do that because of my TV show. [But] through my lines, people will know that my character loves eating and

'FOOTLOOSE'/ A2-3

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Sunday BIZ

Exec shares secrets

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

HE IS ONE of the few executives who left government service with no stain on his reputation nor feelings of bitterness.

This despite the fact that Jose "Ping" Pamintuan de Jesus once headed the Department of Public Works and Highways, an agency that regularly ranks at the top of the list of most corrupt government agencies. De Jesus served under the administration of Corazon C. Aquino.

FIRST JOB

De Jesus says he was probably able to keep his reputation intact because of his belief in transparency and a keen understanding of human behavior.

He now sits as president and CEO of the Lopez-owned Manila North Tollways Corp., the firm which rehabilitated and expanded the North Luzon Expressway.

Despite the fact that the announcements about the looming toll fee hike were made months before implementation, the increase was still met by adverse publicity and an uproar from motorists.

Stressful experience

De Jesus says: "That was the first time I drained the phone batteries of my cellular phone, answering questions, particularly from media, about the toll fee hike."

He admits it was the most stressful experience in his life. But it needed to be done.

The key, he says, especially with media, is to be transparent, and to be available for their questions. True enough, the uproar died after a few weeks and people are now traveling on the newly constructed road.

After building the road, De Jesus says MNTC now wants to position the North Luzon expressway as a catalyst for the development of Northern and Central Luzon, particularly as a tourist destination.

"We want to fulfill our role more pro-actively. Especially in creating and promoting tourist destinations," he says. "We have to let people know there are interesting things and designations, tourist attractions and products in the area."

The MNTC is coordinating with local governments in drafting a program to achieve this goal.

Career start

His started his career as a student of human behavior, although it took an educator—a priest—for him to take the area more seriously.

He went to a Jesuit-run seminary in Pampanga. Realizing that priesthood was not his calling, he went to the Ateneo de Manila for college, finishing a degree in Economics.

Although a fresh graduate, he landed a job that decided on the fate of other new graduates and not so new ones.

He was hired by Caltex (Phils.) Inc. as an employment officer. He jokes that he got to interview the pretty girls, and some of them now occupy top posts in the public and private sectors.

Since he had a lot of free time on his hands after work, he decided to enroll at the Ateneo, which used to have its campus along Padre Faura, near the Caltex office.

He took up a postgraduate course in social psychology, although he admits he was bored with many of the courses he was taking. Until he met and was taught by Fr. Jaime Bulatao, that is.

"He made Psychology so interesting and I started becoming serious with my studies," De Jesus says.

He stayed with Caltex three years then moved to Phinma. Then from 1963 to 1973, he was vice president of the Private Development Corp. of the Philippines. While with PDCP, Ping pursued graduate studies in Human Development at the University of Chicago.

When then Education Secretary Onofre D. Corpus established the Development Academy of the Philippines, he asked Fr. Bulatao to develop a training curriculum for government executives.

The priest recruited Ping to help in drafting this and in the next four years, from 1973 to 1977, he occupied various posts in DAP.

Training and education appeared to be the route he was taking, eventually becoming undersecretary at the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, from March 1986 to March 1987.

During Cory Aquino's presidency, he was made Secretary of General Services and eventually Cabinet Secretary.

Ping says he had never met Cory when he was asked to serve government. But he was undeniably a believer and a fan of hers. And still is to this day.

Doer, not graft buster

He knew when he accepted the posts at Human Resources and Public Welfare Office and eventually the Department of Public Works and Highways, that it was going to be tough. But he says: "I went there not as a graft buster but that I was going to be a doer and implementor the projects."

He says he spent his 18 months not convicting corrupt Public Works employees, but implementing projects.

"I met with all the regional directors and told them I assume everybody here is honest. If I hear anyone doing foolishness, I will go after him. They responded," he says.

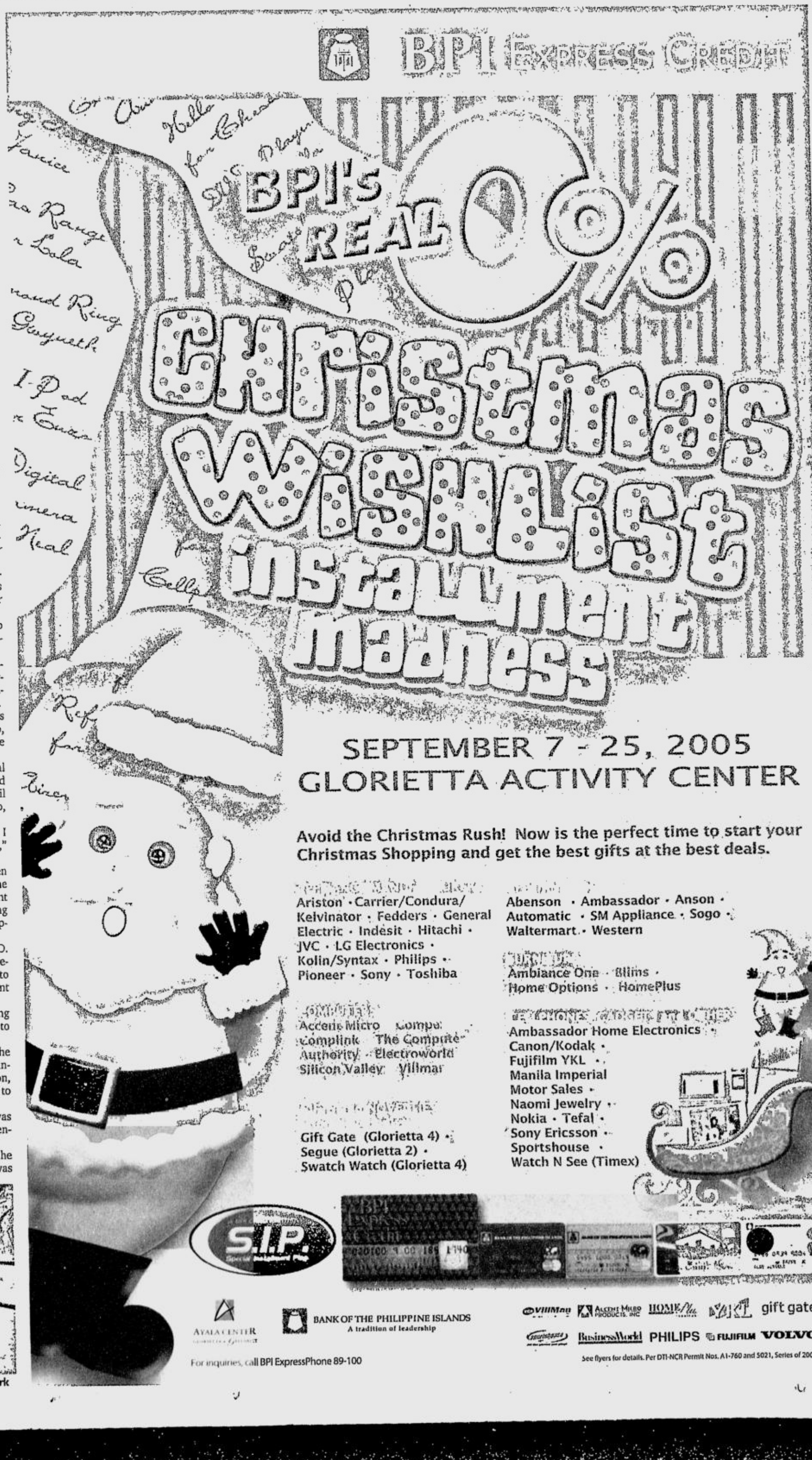
He stayed at DPWH during the era of flyovers. He says that initially, there were too many flyovers on the drawing board and not enough money.

What he did was pool the funds to do at one, then constructed the others as the money became available.

"It helped that I had a president who trusted me and I also had good relations with the

EXEC/ B2

JOSE de Jesus today



THE FORMER Public Works Secretary at work

He's the dreamer, she's the spark plug

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SAN FABIAN, Pangasinan—Benjamin and Ana Maria Lolim are more than just a happy married couple. They are exemplary business partners as well.

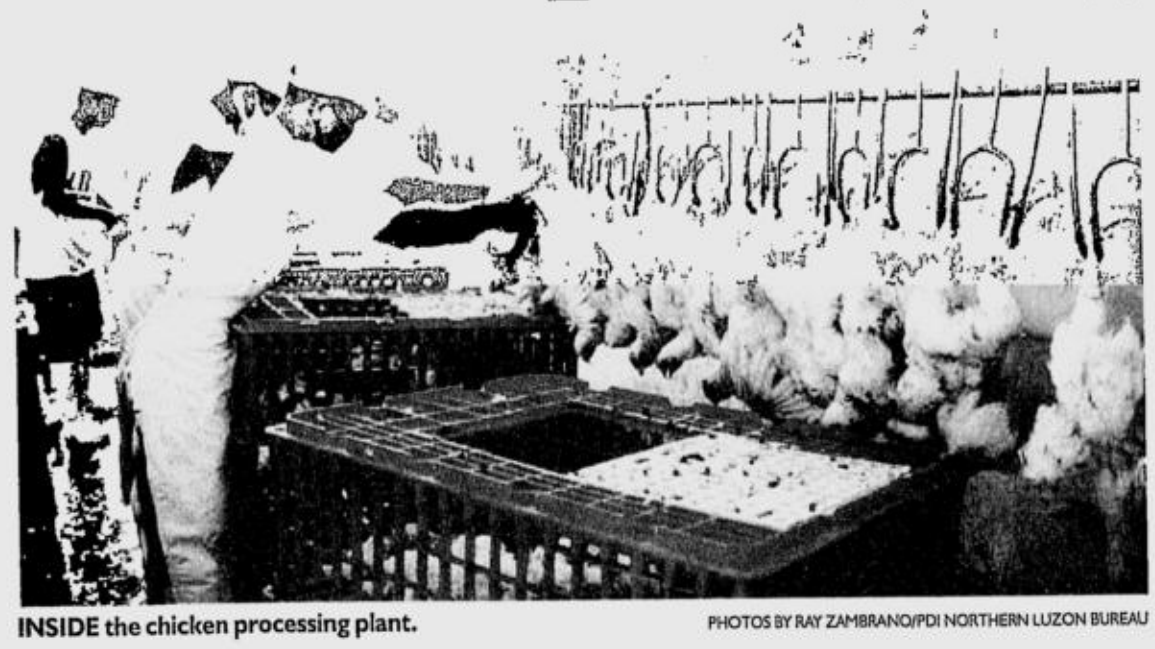
This partnership has produced three booming ventures: a chicken dressing plant, a cold storage and chiller, and an ice plant.

"I'm the dreamer while she is the spark plug and the implementor," said Benjamin, 50, of the secret of their successful business partnership that has given birth to the family-owned LDP Farms Food Corp.

Benjamin is the president and chief executive officer while Maan is the chief operations officer. But the roles are not really clear-cut, they admitted.

They first went into business during the early years of their marriage in the 1980s when Benjamin, an electronics and communications engineer, decided to quit his job in an electronics company to try his hand at running a restaurant.

THE HUSBAND and wife-cum-business partners Benjamin and Maan Lolim provide warmth to the "cold" businesses.



INSIDE the chicken processing plant. PHOTOS BY RAY ZAMBRANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

PINOY ENTREPRENEUR

First ventures

The first venture was a franchise for Mister Donut in Dagupan City. Soon, Maan, who was a "plain housewife," joined him in the business and they acquired franchises to operate several stores of Cindy's and of Mister Donut in Dagupan and Urdaneta cities and in San Fernando City in La Union.

They also put up their own restaurant called Michelle's, after their eldest daughter.

The killer earthquake in 1990, however, hit the business sector in Pangasinan, and the Lolims were not spared from the downtrend. They persevered and, as Dagupan slowly got back on its feet, so did the couple's restaurant businesses.

Another big challenge that the couple had to face was the entry of the malls in the provinces.

"To keep up with the changing spending practices of the consumers, we had to relocate to the malls. But the rentals were exorbitant that "we could hardly make profit," he said.

Big food corporations also started to enter the provincial market scenes, giving the local restaurants stiff competition.

In 1994, while still operating restaurants, the Lolims diversified to contract growing of broiler chickens for Vitarich Corp. They established a poultry farm in Mapandan town. Two years later, they went into raising chicken breeders (parents of the 45-day broilers).

Their bond with the chicken industry strengthened when Vitarich encouraged them to go into poultry dressing plant business.

Modern plant

An ultra-modern dressing plant called LDP Farms was put up right at the boundary of San Fabian, Pangasinan, and Rosario, La Union, in September 1996.

The plant has been a consistent awardee as the cleanest and most modern poultry dressing plant (AA category) in the Ilocos since its establishment. The award is given by the National Meat Inspection Commission.

The plant also won the national awards 2002, 2003 and 2004. It was cited by the NMIC as having one of the best waste water treatment systems in the country.

But the partnership with Vitarich was severed when the company's business waned.

Since last year, LDP Farms has been servicing the needs of San Miguel Corp. which exports dressed and processed chickens to Japan.

The Lolims also put up a cold storage and chiller facility, initially to service the dressing plant's requirements.

With a 400-ton capacity, the cold storage was inaugurated in March this year and now caters to companies doing business in Northern Luzon.

Most modern

It is the most modern in Northern Luzon and serves as a depot for companies in the area, Benjamin boasted.

The chiller, on the other hand, caters to farmers who need to keep supplies of vegetables like onions, carrots and potatoes, and of fish processors who need to store processed fish. It can accommodate 250,000 tons of onions and other perishable goods.

Successful as they are, the Lolims remain humble, attributing all their success to God.

"We are just stewards of these things. Everything belongs to God," the couple said.

Going loco over coconet

By Christine A. Gaylican

AGRIBUSINESS firm Coco Technologies Corp. (CocoTech) said it has already achieved an overwhelming feat as its products made of discarded coconut husks have penetrated tough international markets.

From a small venture producing long-term erosion control and agricultural products out of coconut husks, CocoTech now exports to China, Japan, South Korea, Europe and the United States after delivering to a growing number of local buyers, mainly real estate firms.

"When we first introduced the technology in 1994 as a project of the Bicol University, no one wanted to invest in our project so I took the initiative," shared CocoTech chief executive officer Dr. Justino R. Arboleda in an interview.

Arboleda said that they developed the machine that breaks down the coconut husks to produce fiber nets and other products primarily designed to prevent soil erosion in deforested hill sides and riverbanks.

Taking a leave from his work as Dean of the college and with some P80,000 as initial capital, Arboleda teamed up with the Foundation for Sustainable Society Inc. (FSSI), a non-stock, non-profit foundation that began operations in early 1996 to promote sustainable enterprises that are community-oriented, ecologically sound, and economically viable.

Arboleda said the company n ow employs more than 1,500 families from the marginalized coconut farms living in Bicol, Aklan, Misamis Occidental, Southern Leyte, Samar and Quezon.

"Some 85 percent of our producers are women, who needed additional livelihood as their families depend on copra and coconut farming," noted Arboleda.

Recently, CocoTech signed a memorandum of agreement (MoA) with Guangzhou Rivers Enterprise Co. Ltd.

Under the MOA, Coco Tech will supply coconut fiber geo-textile products which will be used in riverbank repair in Guandong Pan Pearl River Delta and other areas in China.

Some of the local projects undertaken by CocoTech include the soil erosion control at Tagaytay Highlands, slope protection at Cagayan de Oro City, the Mirant Sual slope protection, Malitam river rehabilitation project at the Pilipinas Shell refinery, slope protection and drainage outfall works at Leisure Farms and the Bicol River Rehabilitation Project funded by the World Bank, among others.

Arboleda said that to keep up with demand, a network of production facilities has been established in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

COCOTECH is among the 12 finalists to the World Challenge sponsored by the BBC World and Newsweek.

"CocoTech shall constantly seek out ways to enhance and improve the products and technology in coco coir processing. Our coconut coir processing equipment, a product of Filipino ingenuity, was developed and locally fabricated and demonstrates high efficiency in coconut fiber processing. Our line of natural fertilizers is a result of year of research and testing of various crops throughout the country," he added.

World Challenge finalist

CocoTech has even made it as one of the 12 finalists to the World Challenge for its exemplary and pioneering entrepreneurial project in forming an innovative product out of coconut husks and providing livelihood for poor families in the countryside.

The World Challenge is a joint project by the BBC World & Newsweek, in association with Royal Dutch Shell Group of Companies to recognize entrepreneurs whose projects are making a difference to communities.

Dr. Arboleda said that being one of the nominees in the World Challenge would be a big exposure to their small enterprise as it would be given a chance to be featured in an issue of the Newsweek and in BBC TV. (Votes via the Internet for Coconets log on to www.theworldchallenge.co.uk. Voting is valid until Oct. 16.)

The winning project receives a grant from Shell Group of companies worth $20,000 to benefit their project.

A cruise of a lifetime

"YOU CAN dance the night away at the disco or retreat to world-class performances at any of their entertainment outlets. They have boutiques and shops, a library, a golf driving range, swimming pool, beauty salon, casino, karaoke, movie house, childcare center, business center... name it, they have it" said Felipe Bince Jr. as he described his experience onboard the SuperStar Virgo.

SuperStar Virgo is the pride of Star Cruises. It is brand new and custom-designed for the Asia-Pacific region.

It has more than 25 food and beverage outlets as well as entertainment and recreation centers.

Bince, Asian Vision Cable Holdings chief operations officer, joined the cruise as the world-class fleet sponsored some of the major activities of the cable company early this year.

From Singapore, Bince and his wife, son and nephew were brought to Port Klang in Kuala Lumpur and boarded the SuperStar Virgo for a three-day, two-night cruise.

AT THE lobby of the ship near the elevators.

"The staff was very courteous and also, mascots in different national costumes would welcome you and take pictures. They would also give you a list of activities to choose from. They were so organized from the moment we went onboard up to the time we left the ship." Bince said, "I was so glad that more than 60 percent of the crew are Filipinos."

As the liner takes you to places where feasting is an everyday affair, its chefs onboard prepare a wide variety of meals for guests to choose from.

"They have all kinds of food—International, Chinese, Indian and Italian" Bince said.

"The ship was so big that it can easily accommodate 2,000 people. You will also enjoy meeting a lot of people from different cultures. It was really a once-in-a-lifetime experience," said Bince, who was really grateful for his first cruise.

DE JESUS during his oath taking as DPWH secretary with former President Corazon Aquino

Exec shares secrets

From page B1

Department of Finance which approves the funding and the Department of Budget and Management which releases the funds. Whenever there were savings I would ask DOF to allocate for the projects," he says.

De Jesus admits to having no engineering background, thus he had to dedicate time to learn about the technical details of the project. But ultimately, what was needed was not just the technical know-how but the macro view of managing projects and knowing people who would implement them.

He says he spent a lot of time going around the different projects and meeting some of the workers.

Several months after Cory's term ended and Fidel V. Ramos took over, De Jesus moved on. He spent a year as chair of the Manila Waterworks and Sewerage System and then spent the next seven as executive vice president of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

In 2000, Oscar Lopez invited Ping to join MNTC.

De Jesus, who is in his late 60s, does not look his age. This is because over 40 years ago, he committed to a physical regimen.

DE JESUS with colleagues at PLDT

"When I was 30 years old I was sluggish having gained weight during my studies in the United States," he relates.

"One afternoon I was in a wake and a man passed, walking briskly. It was CPR (Carlos P. Romulo), who was well into his 70s or 80s."

And then he read in the Sunday Times about Romulo's physical regimen which included playing tennis. That image of Romulo—an old man walking fast and seemingly very healthy—was etched in his mind.

The following day, he undertook a physical program that holds to this day—he walks three kilometers, three times a week. He regularly goes to the gym and plays an occasional game of golf.

Ping married a former officemate in Caltex, has three daughters and four grandchildren.

Wedding expo set

THEMES and Motifs-The Special Events Co. will hold the 7th edition of Wedding Expo Philippines on Sept. 3 and 4 at the NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio, Global City.

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Get free admission by preregistering at www.themesnmotifs.com or call Themes & Motifs at 371.9783 or 410.0032, for more information.

BUTTERFLY souvenirs

Cold cash in cool city

From page B10

overcome every bias they have regarding all that has turned out wrong about the summer capital.

Carlo de la Cruz, the sim-café's chef, worked as a waiter for one of the city's prestigious restaurants, and saw how a rumored epidemic in January this year cleaned his employers' out of their return customers. He said the sorry state of Baguio business appeared to herald its economy's collapse.

The paranoia upstaged what has already been a trend. Between 1990 and 2000, the Department of Tourism has noted a steady 13 percent drop in Baguio's annual tourist arrivals, decreasing the city's overall contribution to the national tourism economy, said Purificacion Molintas, director of the DOT in Cordillera.

Out-of-town consumers have always raised the value of Baguio staples such as salad vegetables, strawberry jams, and the man-in-the-barrel wood carvings.

But when the café's culinary, managerial and marketing students began conducting their own environmental survey to determine the future of their sim-café, they saw that things in Baguio have started to turn around, said Eizon Wilmer Sampang, a Cicada simulation manager.

Many restaurants, which sell Baguio-flavored cuisine such as *pinikpikan* (Cordillera broth using native-grilled chicken), have retained their domestic customers despite the tourist loss.

The ubiquitous market vendor still displays the greenest cabbages, the brightest carrots and the largest potatoes in the country, and manages to these vegetables for far less than those sold in Metro Manila.

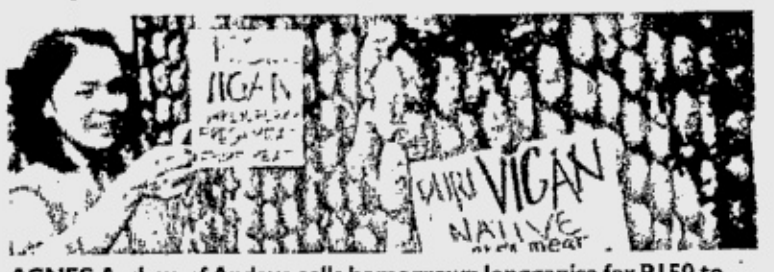
Burnham Lake is still filled with boats that one can rent for P100 an hour. People still trek to Wright Park so they can saddle up and ride Baguio's ponies through dense pine forests.

"I am willing to raise and invest P1 million today in a Baguio restaurant because of the city's upbeat economy," De la Cruz said.

BIGASAN OR BAG. At the rice section of the Baguio City Market, vendors also sell colorful bags to the local tourists, who can carry their newly purchased wagwag clothes and vegetables in style. Bag prices range from P50 to P 100.

NENA Selango has been selling walis tambo (brooms) for decades at the sari-sari section of Baguio City market. Each broom sells for P25, although prices could go as high as P60

ROW ROW YOUR BOATS. Early morning each day in Baguio City, rowers like these two men prepare these swan boats to rent out to tourists and lovers for under P100 per hour. Celso Osorio, owner of 17 Swan Boats at Burnham Lake in Baguio City said he earns as much as P 2,000 for a 10-hour operation even during the rainy season.



AGNES Andaya of Andaya sells homegrown longganisa for P150 to 180 per kilo depending on whether they are de recado (with garlic) or de hamon (sweetened). She said Baguio City Market longaniza can earn her P10,000 even during lean months.

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Dear Stockholder:

Please be advised that the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Corporation, as fixed by the Board of Directors of Waterfront Philippines, Inc. will be held on September 17, 2005 (Saturday) at 10:00 a.m. at the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel , Inc., Lahug Cebu City for the purpose of
transacting the following business:

1. Call to Order
2. Report on Attendance and Quorum
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Stockholders' Meeting
4. Report to Stockholders for the year 2004
5. Ratification of Acts of the Board and Management for 2004
6. Appointment of External Auditor
7. Election of Board of Directors for the ensuing term
8. Other Business as may properly come before the meeting
9. Adjournment

As fixed by the Board of Directors, stockholders of record date as of August 9, 2005 shall be entitled to notice of, and vote at said stockholders' meeting and for this purpose, the Board of Directors authorized the closing of the stock transfer book of the Corporation during the period of August 10, 2005 to September 17, 2005.

If you are not attending, you may submit a PROXY instrument to the office of the Corporate Secretary of this Corporation at the address below. As per Waterfront By-laws, proxies must be in within 48 hours before the meeting. Corporate stockholders are requested to attach to the PROXY instrument, their respective Board Resolutions in support of their proxies. Validation of proxies will be held on September 15, 2005 at 2:30 p.m. at the office of the Corporate Secretary.

On the day of the meeting you or your proxy are hereby required to bring this Notice and any form of identification (e.g. driver's license, company ID, TIN c .u etc.) to facilitate registration.

ARTHUR R. PONSARAN
Corporate Secretary

27th Floor Wynsum Corporate Plaza
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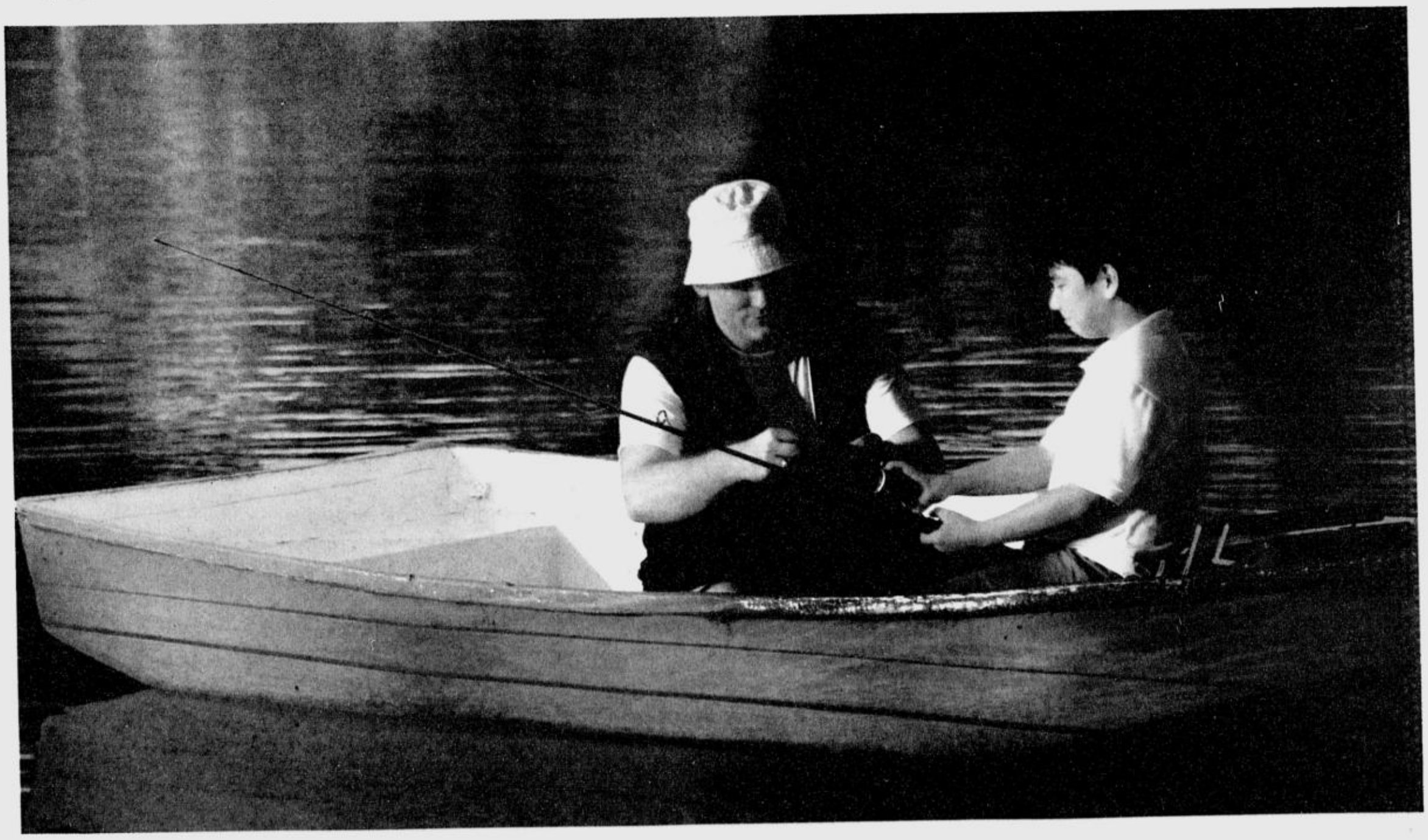

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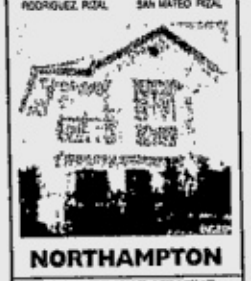

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RESIDENTIAL	MIN BID
CAINTA – Brgy. San Juan (near Greenland Subd. & Cainta Municipal Hall)	
1. Lots-17,18,19,21&22 Blk-1 & Psu-178259, Victoria Avenue LA-2,808 (near Buenmar St.)	4,853,000
LAS PINAS	**MIN BID**
2. 2-Sty T'Hse/# 475-C,North-11 St, Angela Vill , Brgy. Talon-2 LA-68/FA-101 (access via Happy Ville)	2,000,000
Union Villas T'hms.- BF Resort Vill.	
3. 2-Sty. T'Hse/ Unit-11, BFCarnival Park St nr E. Yuhico St Brgy. Talon-2 / LA-85 / FA-128	1,900,000
MALABON- Concepcion (Nr. cor. of Gov. Pascual Ave. & A. Luna Rd.)	**MIN BID**
4. 6-Door, 2-Sty. Resl Apt /# 30 Bernardo St / LA-298 / FA-377	2,000,000
5. Lot / Lot-21-A (Psd-55807) # 30 Bernardo St / LA-168	938,000
MALABON- Brgy. Dampalit (North Merville Park-I Subd. (*w/ occupants)	**MIN BID**
6. *L-1 B-14, J Cancio St/LA-186	135,000
7. *Lot-19 Blk-13-A / LA – 168	162,000
8. *L-53 B-9, D Rosario St / LA-261	359,000
MALABON – Hulong Duhat	**MIN BID**
9. Lot / # 8 Don Basilio Bautista Blvd / Lot Area – 886	6,200,000
ANTIPOLO, RIZAL	**MIN BID**
10. H&L, L-7 B-3, Valley Golf Dr Valley Golf Subd , Mayamot LA-1,961 / FA-107 (Nr Ortigas Ext'n)	4,950,000
11. L-23 B-10, Cottonwood Hts Bayugo / LA-266 (near Sumulong)	1,332,000
12. L-21 B-2, Birchwood St, Cottonwood Hts, Bayugo / LA-355	1,778,000
13. Lot-47 Blk-18,Park Ridge Est. Ph -3 (via Valley Golf) LA-811	1,852,000
14. L-17 B-1, Beverly St. Sta Barbara 1,Mission Hills,Colaique/LA-1,021 (nr Pines City)	3,692,000
ANGONO, Rzl. (via Antipolo)	**MIN BID**
15. Lot / L-6 B-2, Mills St. Sta Monica Classic Est,Ph-3,Mission Hills Brgy Colaique/LA-540 (near Pines City)	1,950,000
LAGUNA – Sta. Rosa (via Tationg Hari Rd, nr. Town proper	**MIN BID**
16. H&L / Lot-5 Blk-8, Jupiter St Satelite Ville,Sinalhan/LA-40/ FA-46	319,000
CALOOCAN – Gracepark	**MIN BID**
17. Lot / L-25 & 26 B-31, 2nd St LA-388 (between 3rd & 4th Ave)	3,856,000
BULACAN – Plaridel (Brgy. Lalangan - Plaridel Heights	**MIN BID**
18. Cor Lot / L-2 B-47, LA-355	1,243,000
19. Cor. Lot / L-13 B-7, LA-404	1,414,000
20. Cor Lot / L-2 B-38, LA-411	1,439,000
21. Lot / Lot- 25 Blk-8, LA-350	1,155,000
BULACAN - MALOLOS	**MIN BID**
22. H&L / Lot 2 & 3 Blk-17,Desta Ave. cor. 1st St , Desta Hms Brgy Atlag LA-515 / FA-293 (near Sto Cristo Diversion Rd)	2,732,000
MAKATI CITY (Kingswood Twr.- P. Tamo cor. V. Cruz	**MIN BID**
23. Condo / Unit-P2F, Tower-B 28th & 29th flrs / FA-154	7,208,000
24. Condo / Unit-P3F,Tower-B 26th & 27th flrs / FA - 154	7,208,000
TAGAYTAY CITY (between Sta. Rosa Lag. Short-cut & Aguinaldo Hi-way	**MIN BID**
25. Lot/Lot-8, Tagaytay-Calamba Rd Tolentino-West (over looking Taal Lake) LA-2,156 *w/ Lis Pendens	20,000,000
VALENZUELA – Nr. Malinta Exit	**MIN BID**
26. Lot / Lot-551-A-2-A-3, Pineda Compd, Bonifacio St./ LA-1,114	2,241,000
27. 3-Sty Bldg/ Lot-894-A-3,Mariano Laurel Drive Paso De Blas LA-463/FA-809 (nr Fortune Vill -4)	5,300,000
SAN MATEO-Bo.Patils, RIZAL	**MIN BID**
28. *Lot / B-15, LA – 40,171	2,550,000
29. *Lot / B-16, LA – 40,171	2,550,000
30. *Lot / B-17, LA – 40,171	2,550,000
31. *Lot / B-18, LA – 40,171 * No Right Of Way	2,550,000
TARLAC CITY	**MIN BID**
32. Agro-Indl / Lot-3871-D,Sapang Maragul,Tibag /LA-10,001-near arch	2,984,000
NUEVA ECIJA - Cab. City (# 529 Pag-Asa, Daan Sarili (near L.T.O.)	**MIN BID**
33. Lot / Lot 3-A-6 / LA-1,820	400,000
34. Lot / Lot 3-A-5 / LA-1,847	401,000
35. Lot / Lot 3-A-4 / LA-1,847	401,000
36. Lot / Lot 3-A-3 / LA-1,848	401,000
37. Lot / Lot 3-A-2 / LA-1,848	401,000
38. Lot / Lot 3-A-1 / LA-1,839	401,000
LAGUNA-Cabuyao, Poblacion	**MIN BID**
39. 2-Sty H&L Unit-1 Belibart Elsol Villas Thms / LA-107 / FA-85 (Near Mcdonalds & wet market)	1,000,000
CAVITE – Carmona (Lot)	**MIN BID**
40. L-16 B-1,Ph-1, Mia Southwoods Brgy C Baybay/LA-1,224 (nr Gate-1)	6,577,000

RESIDENTIAL	MIN BID
CAVITE - Molino III, Bacoor (Madelaine Place, Springville Subd.	**MIN BID**
41. Lot / Lot - 8 Blk - 1 / LA-117	646,000
42. Lot / Lot - 6 Blk - 4 / LA-120	663,000
43. Lot / Lot - 10 Blk - 3 / LA-123	679,000
44. Lot / Lot - 18 Blk - 6 / LA-132	729,000
45. Lot / Lot - 19 Blk - 7 / LA-132	729,000
Washington Manor, Springville Subd. (Blk-2)	
46. Lot-2 (Pcs-04-016175) / LA-154	1,134,000
47. Lot-16 (Pcs-04-016175) / LA-145	1,067,000
48. Lot-16 (Pcs-04-016175) / LA-162	1,192,000
Central Phase – 2, Springville Subd. (Lots)	
49. L-24 B-7,MB Villar Ave /LA-120	974,000
50. L-3 B-3, near ClubHse / LA-112	790,000
51. L-5 B-3, near ClubHse / LA-112	790,000
52. L-7 B-3, near ClubHse / LA-122	861,000
53. L-2 B-1, near ClubHse / LA-96	677,000
Orchard Res'l. Estates and Golf & Country Club - Salitran, Dasmarinas, Cavite	
FAIRWAY LOTS	
54. Lot-27 Blk-17 / LA - 828	3,147,000
55. Lot-52 Blk-17 / LA - 1,130	4,294,000
56. Lot-93 Blk-48 / LA - 783	2,976,000
NON - FAIRWAY LOTS	
57. Lot-09 Blk-37 / LA - 672	2,016,000
58. Lot-35 Blk-37 / LA - 687	2,061,000
59. Lot-67 Blk-48 / LA- 506	1,518,000
CAVITE- Brgy. Palangue, Naic (Mango Orchard Res'l. & Farm Estates	**MIN BID**
60. Lot / L-6 B-18 / LA - 1,468	1,468,000
61. Lot / L-5 B-19 / LA - 964	964,000
62. Lot / L-6 B-19 / LA - 1,194	1,194,000
63. Lot / L-4 B-19-A / LA – 2,953	2,953,000
64. Lot / L-10 B-19-B / LA - 2,245	2,245,000
BULACAN – Sta. Maria (Brgy.Guyong, Sunrays Vill.-beside Delfi	**MIN BID**
65. Lot / Lot-9 Blk -5 / LA - 40	80,000
COMMERCIAL / AGR'L. (SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL)	
MAKATI – Plo Del Pilar (Bangkal – near S.Super Hi-way & EDSA	**MIN BID**
66. Lot/L-7 B-7,Evangelista St cor. Arguelles St / LA - 310	11,600,000
67. L-8 B-7,Evangelista St LA-311	11,700,000
Millenium Plaza- Mkti. Ave. cor. Eduque St.	
68. Condo Unit / 5/F, FA–261 (near former Int'l Schl)	17,765,000
PARANAQUE – San Dionisio	**MIN BID**
69. Lot-1-B & 1-C / Net LA-9,562 (back of SM Sucat & access) Beside Shell) w/ Lis Pendens	25,161,000
MANILA – Divisoria	**MIN BID**
70. 2/F, KP Tower CM Recto Ave corner Juan Luna St / FA-658	28,792,000
CAVITE - Tanza, Bo. Tres Cruces (nr. Transville Subd, via Trece Martires	**MIN BID**
71. Agri Lot / Lot-2931 (Rs-1273) LA-40 127 *w/ Adverse Claim & No Right Of Way	5,117,000
QUEZON CITY	**MIN BID**
72. Building / Lots 8 & 9 Blk-S-27 Timog Ave. LA-1,380-FA-1,500 (nr Unionbank Br & GMA-7) *on Lease	70,000,000
73. Whouse / 185 Roosevelt Ave S F Del Monte / LA-5,641 FA-3,454 (infront of Watch Twr)	140,000,000
74. Warehouse / # 138 Gen Luis cor Pasacola Rd, Nagkaisang Nayon,N'liches/LA-49,504,FA-23,384	300,000,000
TARLAC CITY – Poblacion	**MIN BID**
75. Lot / Lot-4-A, Panganiban St LA-1,120 (infront of Iceplant)	11,943,000
76. Lot / Lot-4-C, Rizal St / LA-756	8,094,000
TAGUIG - Global City Fort Bonl. (Infront of Adidas Sports Camp)	**MIN BID**
77. Lot / L-3 B-18,cor of 28th St & 4th Ave / LA-1,643	164,300,000
SARIAYA - QUEZON PROV.	**MIN BID**
78. Agri Lot w/ resi H&L,Whse & Piggery/Lot-6181-A-5-A-1-A-1-D, E,F,G,I & Lot-6181-A-4,Psd 4A-001202, Bo Sampaloc/ LA-101,038, FA-9,277 (near bridge) * with Lis Pendens	45,053,000
NUEVA ECIJA - Cab. City (# 529 Pag-Asa, Daan Sarili (near L.T.O.)	**MIN BID**
79. Agri Lot / Lot-3-B / LA-37,041	2,366,000
80. Commi Lot w/ Whse & Offc Lot-2-H / LA-2,260 / FA-580	5,098,000
VALENZUELA CITY	**MIN BID**
81. Whse/Lot-13 Templanza St D Pedro Vill, Marulas LA-2,540 FA-3,314 (Near Savory Rest)	18,209,000
82. Ind'l Lot w/ 2 Whses(14&16) Barracks, Canteen,Guardhse Lot-1075-D-1-C, Plastic City 6 T.Santiago St,Canumay-West LA - 9,923 / FA – 7,096	39,703,000
83. Ind'l Lot w/ Whse / #47 Maysan Rd /LA-7,871/FA-7,040 (nr Maysan Elem Schl)	40,702,000
84. Ind'l Lot w/ Bldgs /Lot-382-C Plastic City Housing,Canumay LA – 25,798 / FA – 5,310 (Via T. Santiago St & Pinagbayanan St)	45,000,000

JUST BRING P20,000SHOW MONEY(CASH OR MC) TO QUALIFY TO BID FOR EACH PROPERTY
CWT IS FOR THE BUYER'S ACCOUNT ALL PROPERTIES FOR SALE ARE ON "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS. Unionbank may, at anytime, withdraw any of the properties listed above prior to auction

VICTONETA BAYTOWN
LIGHT INDUSTRIAL SUBDIVISION
ANGONO, RIZAL

20% Grand Investment Day DISCOUNT on Sept. 10-17, 2005

ACCESSIBILITY:
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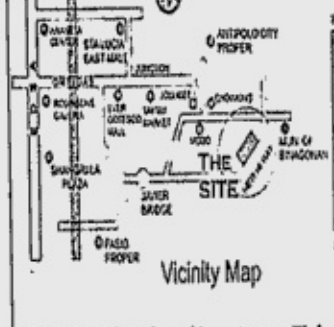
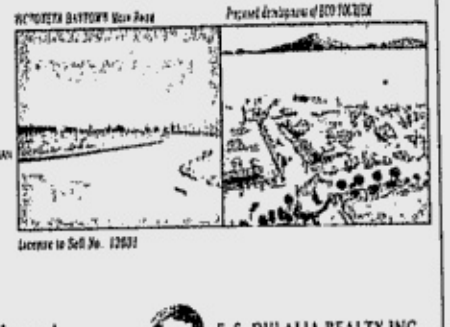
A light industrial park and commercial subdivision located along the NEW Taytay-Angono Boulevard at the Barangay of San Isidro.



Vicinity Map



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SAN JUAN

Nr. Ghills big bful 5.9M 7270762

OTHER AREAS

VALLEY GOLF PENTHSE 520SQM, OVERLOOKING GOLF COURSE 3BR 3TB GARDEN PATIO, JUST REMODELED, OVER P25M INVESTED. QUICK SALE P17M. BROKERS WELCOME. CONTACT AMY 09178234983

OTHER PROVINCIAL

BAGUIO CONDO
•WRIGHT PARK PLACE•
P5M 163 SQ. M., 3 BEDROOMS, 2.5 TOILET & BATH, BALCONY, FIREPLACE, MAID'S ROOM, COMMON DRIVERS QUARTERS
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VARIED AREAS

10%DP Lipat Agad!
• Pasig Nr Libis / Ortigas P1.5M Up
• Mkti C5 Nr The Fort 1.3M Up
• Airport Nr SM Bicutan 1.3M Up
2-4BR Condo 0917-8169849

LOT

KALOOCAN

RAINBOW VILLAGE V 216m²
P3,473/m² Vic 8903461 loc 25

MANILA

Location: Manila Harbour Centre, Vista Tondo
LA: 15,000 square meters
LL: 807-7042 / 807-7434
HP: 0917-897-4242

MHdelPilar Malate 0917-5218855

MANDALUYONG

MAND EDSA 400m² 645-3731

PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD 333m²
P4,054/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

QUEZON CITY

123m² T.Sora; 400&5500m² @Fillnvest 0921-3933567 or 259-1733 Tess

ARCADIA P19M 814 SQ. M.
817-7696 • 824-2445
•0917-8122505 •

★KATIPUNAN Ext Resl lot nr UP Ateneo 204 to 408m²
P8,500/m² 0918-9235216★

LINAW 420m² 0917-5218855

TEACHER'S VILLAGE QC
P10M 436 SQ. M.
• 817-7696 / 824-2445 •
0917-8122505 • 457-2955

TIERA PURA 400m² 4280704

RIZAL

TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS 240m²
P3,125m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

OTHER PROVINCIAL

Location: McArthur Boulevard, Cebu North Reclamation Area
LA: 11,955
LL: 807-7042 / 807-7434
HP: 0917-897-4242

BATANGAS

MLARAYAT 860 09175213838

RANCHO VISTA SUBD 613/m²
P2,284/m² Vic 8903461 Loc 27

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000 m²
P165/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAVITE

Imus nr. Makro/Robinson
256sqm w/Fence, Deep Well
0927-2793377, 046-4150430

PARKPLACE 120m² @P5,750/m²
PARKPLACE 149m² @P6,028/m²
ST. CHARBEL 371m² @P2,650m²
DON BOSCO EXEC HTS 128m²
@P2,900/m² Vic 8903461 LOC 27

PARKPLACE VILL COR/PRIME LOT NEIGHBRHUD DBO 09175442855

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

LAGUNA

SOUTHPEAK P5,000/m² 240m²
Vic / Gigie 8903461 loc 25 / 27

TAGUIG

SEMI-COMMERCIAL LOT 243m²
A.BONIFACIO ST U. BICUTAN
CALL 5237665 5251782
09178997119

OFFICE SPACE

2&F TRIDENT TOWER BLDG.
312 GIL PUYAT COR BUENDIA EXTENSION MAKATI CITY
FA: 342.36 square meters
LL: 807-7042 / 807-7434
HP: 0917-897-4242

G/F TRIDENT TOWER BLDG.
312 GIL PUYAT COR BUENDIA EXTENSION MAKATI CITY
FA: 313.25 square meters
Landline: 807-7042 / 807-7434
HP: 0917-897-4242

Manda. 90-200sqm(RENT/SALE)
73-300sqm (Comm'l) 09192189817

MEMORIAL LOT

COLUMBARY GARDEN VAULTS
VISAYAS AVE 5335730

Jr. Family Estate Premium
Manila Memorial Sucat
Lot 24 Block 1087-1113
Cypress Grove/4277495/09192234143

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

19HA ANTIPOLO P300/m²
Lito 0920-6835796/6471205

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000 m²
Vic / Gigie 8903461 loc 25/ 27

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PASIG

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QUEZON CITY

2br 177TSora 7T 09156257259

5br20k 15k 9849864;2723039

RIZAL

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CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

CONDO-BSA TOWER FURN.
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CITYLAND 1BR 8T 8720231

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BRAND NEW 3BR maids rm 3TB 116sqm 1st St. cor. #8 Gilmore Ave. New Mla. QC 28K Vicky/Tintin 5277816/09209503228

Condo 3BR P6T Sikatuna
0917-7956595 9314418 Rina

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

2BR 1TB Mkt 8951625
Mrs. Abltang

6.5 PASAY/MAKATI BNDARY
GUD 4 MKTI WORKERS 8508154

APARTMENT

MAKATI

1BR APT NR UNIV BELT, MKT & Q.C. 2099 MENANDRO ST. PANDACAN MLA FOR INQUIRIES: ARNOLD 0927-9402972; NARDING 5634168

2br1tb 995 Josefina 3rd St. P7T

APT 2BDRM P8500 8426009

PASAY

2BR 7.8T/MO. 5.2T STDO TYP 196 P. SANTOS MALIBAY NR PLZA 5140015 NOEL/NELLY

CUENCA LIBERTAD
2BR P7.8T 550-0254

FURNISHED STUDIO 8872865

PASIG

2BR 2TB 4525822 / 9374514

QUEZON CITY

2BR No car pls 85 Silencio Santol Call 7137722

NR EDSA/QMART 2BR 1TB 7K NO GARAGE 724-7641

SIKATUNA Vill 3BR 4337072

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Mkti nr Ayala P1T Ldy 8974697

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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

Mkt Ofc G/F 100m² 0918-9275418

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EASTWOOD-2BR 1 PARKING FURNSHD VERY NICE P5.8M NEGO

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3SALCEDO PLACE-2BR SEMIFURN NICE P55K/MO. RENT (INCLUSIVE DUES) CALL ANNIE 7155740;09209207535

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LANCER GLX 1989 P95T Nothing to Fix 0920-9104514

NISSAN

'95 Patrol 7250041 WelKpt

'98 Cefiro 250K 09168726291

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'03 TOYOTA RAV4 4X2 GOLD 820T CALL 9178739397

'03 TOYOTA REVO VX200 1ST OWN/AT 10700KM P800T(NEG) 09173656611

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2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Emmanuel S. De Leon has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. No. 88; Page 18; Book II; Series of 2005 before Notary Public Atty. Raul L. Hipona of Manila. (PDI-Sept. 4, 11 & 18, 2005)

Notice is hereby given for the extrajudicial settlement of bank account of the late CRESENCIO V. GONZALES to his legal heirs as per Doc #63, Pg# 13 Bk #XLV, Series of 2005 of Not Pub of Carlos C. Abesamis. (PDI-8/21, 28, 9/4 '05)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late FLORENCIO Q. CAMINO had been the subject of extra judicial settlement between heirs under Doc. No. 14 Page 4 Book IV Series of 2005 in the Not. Reg. of Atty. Wendell E. Coronel of Makati City
PDI – Aug. 21,28 Sept 4,2005

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE METROPOLITAN CLUB, INC. MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE NO. B-0850 UNDER SEALAND SERVICES, INC. WAS DECLARED LOST. IF NO CONTEST IS RECEIVED IN ONE (1) YEAR, NEW CERTIFICATE WILL BE ISSUED. (PDI-SEPT. 4,11 & 18, 2005)

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Name of the Project: One-Year Contract of COMPREHENSIVE PEST CONTROL AND TERMITE SERVICES for CCP-Main, FAT, MFC, Admin & Finance Bldg., PDC, Ferry Terminal, Motorpool Garage and NAC Cottages

Location: CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City and Mt. Maria Makiling, Los Baños, Laguna

Approved Budget for Contract is PhP 1,020,698.77

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

All particulars relative tot he eligibility, bid evaluation and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat (c/o Cecilia E. Funtinilla) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below starting September 09, 2005 from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee in the amount of ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P1,500). The method of payment will be in cash. The Bidding documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The CCP BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on September 21, 2005; 3:30pm, 3/F Tanghalang Pambansa CCP (Main Bldg.)

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before October 07, 2005. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cash/certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit or bank guarantee or surety bond based on the agency approved budget for contract. Late Bids shall not be accepted

Bid opening shall be on October 07, 2005; 2:00pm. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The award of the project shall be based on the lowest calculated responsive bid received from the Bidders

The CCP reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

BAC Secretariat
Cecilia E. Funtinilla
3/F CCP Tanghalang Pambansa (CCP Main Bldg.)
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
Tel. Nos. 632-832-3667 / 632-832-1125 local 1106/1107
Fax No. 632-551-5960
Website: www.culturalcenter.gov.ph

(Sgd.) NIEVES T. DULDULAO
BAC Chairperson

(PDI - Sept. 4 & 11, 2005)

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Sales Lady at least 5'2" hgt Telemarketer/Messenger w/own MC Apply at Rm. 203 De Villa Bldg 1153 MH del Pilar Mla

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URGENTLY NEEDED:ACCOUNTING STAFF
Qualifications:
>Female between 21-28 years old
> Accounting major
Please contact Honeylin or Edeng at tel nos.567-4537 or 687-5813,1:00PM to 7:00PM

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Must possess expertise in Curriculum Design, ELEMENTARY SUBJECT SPECIALISTS
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ARCHITECTS WANTED IMMEDIATELY
ARCHITECTURAL CADD OPERATORS MUST BE PROFICIENT IN: AUTOCADD DRAFTING 2005. COMPUTER GRAPHICS & MANUAL PRESENTATION DRAWINGS. KNOWLEDGE OF DESIGN, WORKING DRAWINGS AND BOTH THE ENGLISH AND METRIC SCALE SYSTEMS.
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UNRGENTLY NEEDED
Marketing Manager
• Graduate of Mktg. or Advertising Course
• At least one year experience in mktg., pref. in publishing co.
Interested parties, submit resume at Unit 2504 Antel Global Center, Julia Vargas St., Ortigas Center or Call at Tel. 687-6272 to 74

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Tutors / Lectures 922-4662

Urgent Part Time Outbound EDUCATOR have passion for teaching kids to young adults willing to be trained for 1month. Orientation on September 11, 2005, Sunday 2pm at University Hotel UP Diliman Call 454-6205

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24-HOUR HOTLINES

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DELTEK

Deltek Systems Philippines, Ltd.
Web address: http://www.deltek.com

A US based, leading provider of innovative software products has immediate openings for talented, dedicated software professionals.

SOFTWARE QUALITY ASSURANCE ANALYSTS
Job code: CPQA

- Work with development and quality assurance teams in multiple countries to deliver new software products and product updates of impeccable quality. This position involves testing of Web-enabled and client/server ERP applications.

Requirements
- Four-year degree in Accounting, Business, Human Resources, Industrial Engineering, or Production Management.
- Knowledge of payroll, human resources, accounting, project accounting, procurement, or manufacturing. Experience in the use, analysis, or testing of ERP software or payroll, accounting, procurement, or inventory software.
- Recent college graduates with outstanding credentials will also be considered.
- Experience using Oracle and Microsoft SQL Server databases is a plus.
- Previous experience in software testing is preferred.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.

COMPUTER SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS
Job code: CPDV

- Work with software development and quality assurance teams in the Philippines and the U.S to deliver software products of outstanding quality.

Requirements
- Four-year degree in Computer Science, IT, or related field.
- 2+ years working as a professional software developer using client-server technology such as Gupta SQLWindows, Centura/Gupta Team Developer, PowerBuilder, Oracle Developer, Delphi, Visual Basic, C/C++, or similar languages and tools.
- Excellent knowledge and skills with relational database management (RDBMS) systems and SQL. Experience with PL/SQL and Transact-SQL. Good understanding of data modeling and Entity-Relationship Diagrams (ERD).
- Education or experience in project accounting, financial accounting, payroll, inventory, or purchasing.
- Proven track record of learning new products and technologies.
- Previous involvement in all phases of the software development lifecycle.
- Strong analytical & problem-solving skills and ability to troubleshoot problems in a timely manner.
- Excellent proficiency in written and spoken English.

QUALITY ASSURANCE ANALYSTS
Job code: QA

We are looking for Accountants for the position of Quality Assurance Analyst. Applicants must have at least 1-2 years of experience, must be computer literate and currently using an accounting software package. Must have detailed knowledge of General Accounting, Material Management and/or Payroll experience. Previous software testing experience is very much preferred.

Note: Energetic, enthusiastic, self-motivated new graduates will be considered.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR RESUME TO:

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26th Floor, Tower 2
The Enterprise Center
6766 Ayala Avenue, Makati City 1200
Phone: 632-886-5059
Email: applicant@deltek.com

IMPORTANT: PLEASE SPECIFY JOB CODE AS SUBJECT IN YOUR E-MAIL

Rapu-Rapu Processing Inc.

is in need of

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

The Job

Provides secretarial services and administrative assistance to the Vice President for Operations.

The Requirement

- College Graduate
- At least five years experience
- Aggressive and with pleasing personality.
- Firm and decisive
- Facility in written and verbal communication
- Good human relations, dynamic personality
- Personable and adept in social graces
- Can compose business correspondence
- Can maintain confidences

Competitive package awaits

Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resume at:

Human Resources
Rapu Rapu Processing, Inc.
Barangay Pagcolbon, Rapu Rapu, Albay
or
renato.mapili@rrpi.com.ph

CALL ADVANTAGE CONTACT CENTER

Is in need of:

Call Center Agents/Telemarketers

URGENT HIRING!

Apply at 24/F Raffles Corporate Center Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.
Monday-Friday 9 am-11 am
Look for Adel or call 9005519
(Please bring this ad when applying)

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Qualifications
- College Graduate preferred
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Please apply personally

Union Motor Corporation
198 EDSA cor Tandang Sora St., Kalookan City
Please look for Mr. Josel Cruz;
josse1512@yahoo.com

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

ELMER R. MADRID

This is to inform the public that the above person is no longer connected with **(FMEI) Fernando Medical Enterprises, Inc.** effective **August 10, 2005.**

Any transaction made or entered into after said date shall not be binding or honored by FMEI.

WANT TO JOIN IN THE FUN??

BISTRO GROUP OF RESTAURANTS is currently looking for a
HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER

- This role is available only to those who would want to work in a highly rewarding environment where bold ideas happen!
- We are a group of **family restaurants offering more than satisfying good meals** – we promise great food and drinks in a fun atmosphere!
- Because we are **adding new great Brands**, a role is being created. The primary focus of the role is to provide HR management support to all our restaurants. The scope of responsibilities includes the development and management of Bistro's HR policies and procedures including recruitment, compensation and benefits, performance management and learning and development.
- The ideal candidate is one who is effective in developing sound relationships in a fast-paced environment, an expert in influencing and coaching at all levels, manage employee moral, with the ability to lead, guide and facilitate the achievement of business objectives for the organization.

Requirements:
- Degree in Human Resource Management or equivalent
- At least 5 years HR Management experience, with multi-organization exposure
- Good understanding of HR policies and employment laws
- Experience in incentive, performance plans and salary reviews
- Excellent track record in coaching and developing teams
- Strong written and oral communication skills

If you are interested, feel that you are able to add value to our organization, we would love to hear from you.

Please email resumé with recent photograph to: hr@bistro.com.ph
or hand-carry to: Human Resources Department
Bistro Group
2176 Primo Rivera St.
La Paz, Makati City

Bistro Group of Restaurants TGI FRIDAYS MIKUNI OUTBACK

Introducing our new Great Brands: GYU-KAKU

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT
Bids and Awards Committee

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (WB-IBRD) towards the cost of the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Serivces Project (KALAHI-CIDSS), and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payment of professional services under this Contract.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development which is the lead implementing agency for this flagship project of the government in lighting poverty now invites individual Proponents for the hiring of KC Database Consultant who shall provide technical assistance on the KALAHI-CIDSS Project Information and Monitoring System (KC-PIMS). He/She shall be in-charge of technical aspect maintaining KC-PIMS databases. He/She shall be responsible for updating and troubleshooting related databases of KC/PIMS. The database consultant shall also be involved in enhancing the PIMS and in developing other databases for KALAHI-CIDSS, as may be required.

The Database Consultant shall:
- Under the supervision of the Knowledge Development and Information Consultant, provide technical service in the operation and maintenance of the KALAHI-CIDSS Project Information and Monitoring System (KC-PIMS). This would include troubleshooting, systems maintenance, data back up and recovery and other operations and maintenance procedures related to the KC-PIMS.
- Provide technical services in ehnancement and improvements of KC-PIMS. This would include addressing existing and evolving information needs of the Project's Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Unit by extracting data stored in the KC-PIMS.
- Provide technical services in the manipulation of data stored in KC-PIMS and the development of related databases for monitoring and evaluation.
- Provide technical services in the maintenance and operation of KC-PIMS Website particularly its back-end database.
- Provide KC-PIMS-related capability-building and skills training for the KALAHI-CIDSS Project staff, when needed.
- Perform other related tasks.

Individuals that have the following qualifications may submit Expression of Interest:
- Graduate of Computer Science or any related 4-year course.
- At least 2 years experience in developing and programming databases with samples of databases developed either individually or as part of a programming team.
- Highly proficient and knowledgeable in the following database applications:
  a. MS Access
  b. MS SQL Server
- Highly proficient and knowledgeable in:
  a. Microsoft's ASP technology; and
  b. Visual Basic/VB Script.
- Relevant training and experience; formal or informal, is a plus.

Interested Applicants may submit their Application Letter and Comprehensive Resumé to the Bids & Awards Committee Secretariat at 2nd floor, DSWD, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City with telephone number 951-71-16 until September 12, 2005 at 5:00 p.m.

(Sgd.) ALICIA R. BALA
Assistant Secretary and Chairperson BAC

(PDI - Sept. 4, 2005)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

OFELIA B. TAN

A **WARRANT OF ARREST** has been issued by the **Metropolitan Trial Court of Metro Manila Br. 6 for Criminal Case No. 410186-89-CR for violation of BP22 (4 accounts).**

Anyone who knows her whereabouts is requested to report it to the nearest police authorities. Her last known address is #2241 Mabiga, Mabalacat Pampanga.

(PDI - Sept. 4 & 11, 2005)

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Help you to get to work on Cruise Ship
Vacancies available now, travel free visit, Australia, Europe, Canada, etc. Salary US$2,000 to US$6,000 a month. Free meals and accommodations to every occupation on Cruise Ship. Just send your name, address plus 4x stamps to:
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(Gilmore) 412-5097 (Novaliches) 418-8080
(Fairview) 428-68-32 (Angeles City) 045-626-1487
(Shaw Boulevard) 717-1987 (Davao City) 082-227-6799
(Araneta) 716-6795 (Bicutan) 844-6724

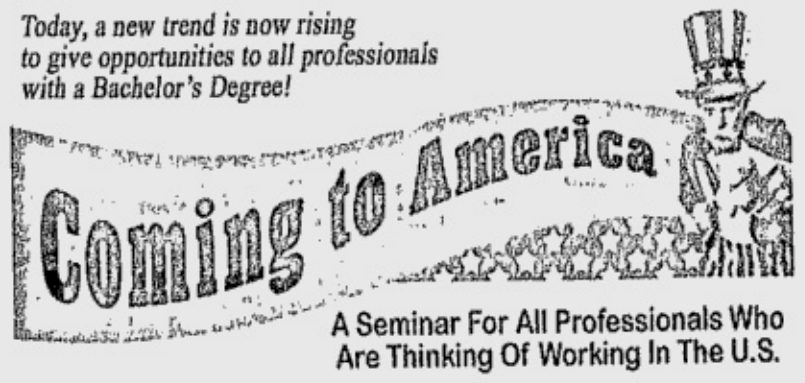
http://www.isave.com.ph

TEACH, EARN AND LIVE IN THE U.S.A.

In 1980's it was nurses...In 1990's it was physical therapists...In 2000 it was the computer specialists...

America needs 1 million teachers this decade!

Today, a new trend is now rising to give opportunities to all professionals with a Bachelor's Degree!



A Seminar For All Professionals Who Are Thinking Of Working In The U.S.

A new law has recently passed that gives an opportunity to everyone who possesses a bachelor's degree:
- ☑ *No teaching experience required*
- ☑ *No need to go back to school*
- ☑ *All professionals are welcome*
- ☑ *Open to fresh graduates*
- ☑ *Can be done in 6-12 months*

Be in-charge of your career,
Take your Income to a Higher Level,
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www.LiveandEarnintheUSA.com

Learn & be enlightened about this great opportunity!

Date: September 10, 2005 (Saturday)

Time: 9: 00 am

Venue: Roof Deck, Prestige Tower
Emerald Avenue
Ortigas Center

Seminar Fee: P795.00
Early bird rate is P495 until Sept. 6 only!

LIMITED SEATS ONLY!
Reserve a seat by calling us at:
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Call or visit us from 9am to 6pm, Mondays to Saturdays

E-Wealth Resource Centers, Inc. 2106 Prestige Tower Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City

GALILEO TRADING AND SERVICES

Location : #13 Sanggumay Street Plainview Village
Mandaluyong City

Urgently needs:
- **SALES COORDINATOR**
- **SALES AGENTS**

Preferably college graduate with sales experience & has the enthusiasm to sell world-class Italian Tiles.
Interested applicants may submit resumé with latest 2x2 pictures and other credentials at

The HRD Office. Or you can e-mail it at galileo@mydestiny.net.

For inquiries: 532-82-37 / 719-10-38 – Look for Ms. Chatty

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Join us and be part of the elite group specializing in one of the most sought after residential resort in Tagaytay...
...and experience the lifestyle it offers while you learn how to earn big!

If you are:
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2 months, with shots and papers
3 male P12,000.00 each
4 female P14,000.00 each
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Inquirer and STI bring thousands of jobs

LEADING publication Philippine Daily Inquirer and the country's largest network of colleges STI recently signed a partnership agreement which aims to bring thousands of job opportunities to the Filipino people through a two-day job fair to be held at the Megatrade Hall 1, 5th Level, SM Megamall on September 21-22, 2005. Dubbed as Global ***Career Connections 2005: Find the Hottest Jobs, Meet the Best Employers,*** the event will feature 70 major employers from various industries like PLDT, Accenture, Viventis, Teleperformance, Convergy's, ADD Force, BPI, Apart from job openings, free career seminars spearheaded by JFK Foundation will be offered to more than 8,000 jobseekers expected to attend the event. The event is co-sponsored by Smart, Air Philippines, Daksh, Asia Select and Grow, Inc in cooperation with MyTrabaho.

COCOLIFE Group of Companies

The Cocolife Group of Companies, which offers a complete range of insurance and financial services, non-life business, pre-need, mutual funds, asset management and security services is in need of the following:

CUSTOMER CARE ASSISTANTS/LIAISON OFFICERS (Cebu, Calabarzon, North Luzon, Metro Manila)

Graduates of BS Physical Therapy, Biology, Nursing, Medical Technology, Psychology, or any Allied Medical related course; not more than 26 years old; good communications skills; customer service oriented; computer literate; very pleasing personality

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Graduate of BS Marketing, Management, Business Admin., Economics or any financial related courses; not more than 26 years old; good communications skills; customer service oriented; computer literate; very pleasing personality

AUDITORS

Graduate of BS Accountancy, Financial Accounting; CPA passer and with above average scholastic standing in a reputable university; not more than 26 years old; good communications skills; customer service oriented; computer literate; very pleasing personality; audit experience an advantage; willing to travel

MARKETING ASSISTANTS / PROCESSORS OFFICE CLERKS

Graduate of any business course, preferably BS Marketing, Management, Business Admin., Commerce; not more than 26 years old; good communications skills; customer service oriented; computer literate; very pleasing personality

We offer competitive compensation and benefits package that includes an annual pay of as much as 15 months, rice subsidy, housing and car loans at low interest rates, medical and HMO benefits, and other special performance incentives.

Applicants may submit or mail their Comprehensive Resume, Transcript of Records and most recent 2x2 picture to:

Anne A. Alcala
3F Cocolife Bldg., 6774 Ayala Ave., Makati City • Tel. no. 8419530/8129015 loc. 225
e-mail to: employee_selection@cocolife.com

Rapid Roll forming CORPORATION

Our Company is the trendsetter in the advancement of construction technology providing superior, durable safe quality steel building products.

If you are dynamic, highly competent and values driven, we invite you to apply for any of the following positions:

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER
Has keen detail on business process and/or methods. Has work exposure in a manufacturing set-up.

PRODUCTION PLANNER
Graduate of Industrial Engineering is preferred. With strong coordination abilities.

SITE ENGINEER
Candidate must possess a Bachelor's degree with professional license in Civil or Mechanical Engineer or Architecture. Proficient in AutoCad 2000 and MS Office.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT
Candidate must possess a Bachelor's degree with professional license in Civil Engineer. With 1 year experience in structural steel and concrete design. Proficient in AutoCad and MS Office.

QC INSPECTORS
Graduate of Mechanical or Chemical Engineering/ Technology Courses. Working knowledge in quality problems. Must be computer literate.

ACCOUNTANT
Graduate of Accountancy, CPA and knowledge in manufacturing operations, an advantage. Trustworthy, assertive and results oriented with high analytical skills. 4-5 years experience in all aspects of accounting/ cost accounting.

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Graduate of Business Management Course. With excellent communication skills and strong selling experience.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT OFFICER
Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/ College Degree in Engineering/ Business Management Course. With 2 years experience in Material Management or its equivalent. Must have strong coordination skills.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
Graduate of any business related 4-year course. Provide administrative and technical assistance to the Chairman in the implementation of company directives. With good communication skills and high sense of dependability.

Send your comprehensive resumé or e-mail to:
HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION
Rapid Forming Corporation
2/F Vasquez Madrigal Plaza #51 Annapolis St.,
Greenhills San Juan, MM 1500
E-mail: corp.hrd@japrl.com.ph.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

AUDITOR

Qualifications:
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- At least 3 years auditing experience
- At least 1 year supervisory / management experience
- Knowledge of Gen. Accounting & Auditing Principles & Procedures.
- Knowledge of Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing.
- Knowledge of Financial Data Analysis, Taxation & Labor Laws.
- Analytical Skills, Team Player
- Can promote & implement appropriate process improvements, Leadership Skills

Responsibilities:
- Performs audit procedure, organizes working papers and communicate reports based on results of audit examinations.
- Responsible for assisting in identifying risk, evaluating controls and preparing audit plans/programs.

CREDIT STAFF

Qualifications:
- College graduate with background in Finance or Accounting
- Preferably with office experience

Responsibilities:
- Assists the Credit Assistants in facilitating credit approval of all advertisements that includes ads through agencies, direct clients and others.

ACCOUNTING STAFF

Qualifications:
- College graduate major in Accounting
- 1 year experience in this job or other similar jobs
- Knowledge of basic accounting principles
- Knowledge of different entries in the check voucher
- Knowledge basic computer operation
- Accounting skills, Report Writing skills, Ability to prepare check, Interpersonal skills, Filing skills

PERSONNEL ASSISTANT

Qualifications:
- Graduate of Psychology or Behavioral Science
- At least 2 years experience in recruitment and selection
- Familiar with psychological tests
- Knows how to use office software
- Interpersonal and Communication Skills, Analytical Skills, Report Writing Skills

Responsibilities:
- To provide recruitment, selection and employment services and maintain an HR Information System

DESK EDITORS

Qualifications:
- College graduate major in Journalism or any Social Sciences course
- Must have 3 years experience in newspaper Journalism
- With at least 1 year experience in editing and designing/layouting pages

Responsibilities:
- Coordinates news gathering activities
- Edits stories and designs the layout of newspaper pages

CHANNEL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT

Qualifications:
- College graduate of any business course
- At least 1 year circulation / marketing experience in related field is an advantage
- Communication Skills, Entrepreneurship, Partnering / Networking, Negotiation Skills, Presentation and Project Management Skills, Knowledge in computer applications
- Familiar with and ability to travel across the Luzon provinces and its key cities

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Qualifications:
- College graduate preferably major in Economics, BS Statistics, BS Math
- 1 year experience as researcher
- Knows how to write; proficient in computer, especially in search technologies, Excel, Corel, Powerpoint, Netscape, and Microsoft Word programs; creative
- Very particular with details; willing to work on field assignments; can work under pressure

Send your application letter and comprehensive resumé or e-mail to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue
(formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets,
Makati City
E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Department of Health
National Center for Mental Health
9 de Febrero St., Mandaluyong City
Tel. No.: 531-9001 • Fax: 531-6682 • e-mail: mcc@ncmh.gov.ph
• website: www.ncmh.gov.ph

The **NATIONAL CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH**, the premier psychiatric institution in the Philippines, has been providing psychiatric services to mentally-ill patients in the country since 1928. It has a wide array of services ranging from outpatient services, acute & intensive treatment, emergency treatment, and to varying clientele such as children & adults, male & female, forensic as well as chronic cases. We are pleased to announce our vacancy for the following positions:

NURSE VII

REQUIREMENTS:
- Masteral Degree major in nursing administration or its equivalent
- 5 years of experience in a supervisory or managerial position in nursing
- 24 hours of training in management and supervision
- a Certified Nurse (RA 1080)

ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE III (CLERK I)

REQUIREMENTS:
- Completion of a 2-year or 4-year course preferably in Accounting, Banking & Finance or Computer Science.
- Possesses a Career Service Subprofessional / Professional Eligibility.
- Previous experience in accounting works is an advantage
- Computer literate
- Male / Female, not more than 30 years old.

Qualified applicants may submit personally their application letter, resumé with recent 2 x 2 colored picture, Transcript of Records, Diploma, NBI clearance and eligibility/ board rating result to the **PERSONNEL SECTION**, National Center for Mental Health, 9 de Febrero Street, Mandaluyong City.

(Sgd.) BERNARDINO A. VICENTE, MD, FPPA, MHA, CESO IV
Medical Center Chief II

Drugmaker's Biotech Research Laboratories, Inc.

The company that provides quality and affordable home and healthcare products is currently seeking for competent, aggressive and dedicated professionals to join our dynamic team to fill-in the following positions:

REGULATORY AFFAIRS MANAGER

- Graduate of BS Pharmacy; Preferably Licensed;
- With at least 10 years extensive experience in processing of Licenses mainly of Pharmaceutical Products and in dealing with BFAD;
- He / She must have above average communication and Public Relation Skills;
- Male / Female; not more than 40 years old;
- A resident or nearby areas of Laguna is an advantage but not preferred.

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

- Graduate of BS Pharmacy / BS Chemistry / BS Chemical Engineer;
- With at least 3 years related work experience in the same capacity from a Pharmaceutical / Manufacturing industry;
- With analytical and leadership skills;
- Excellent communication skills and computer literate;
- A resident or nearby areas of Laguna is an advantage but not preferred.

REGULATORY AFFAIRS STAFF

- Graduate of BS Pharmacy; Preferably Licensed;
- With at least 2 years related work experience in the same capacity from a manufacturing / pharmaceutical industry;
- Well versed in Regulatory Affairs matters;
- Male / Female; not more than 30 years old;

ACCOUNTING STAFF / CLERK

- Graduate of BS Accountancy;
- With at least 1 year experience in Financial Accounting and other areas of Accounting;
- Male / Female not over 27 years old.

HRD STAFF

- Graduate of BS Psychology or any Behavioral Science Courses;
- With experience in all facets of Personnel Administration;
- With hands-on in processing of government mandated benefits;
- Male / Female; not more than 27 years old preferably single.

Due to urgent requirements we are requesting all interested applicants to handcarry your comprehensive resume with recent 2x2 picture and TOR and please come in a proper business attire at:

2215 Cityland 10 Tower 1 Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City on September 5 - 9, 2005 at exactly 8:00AM to 5PM.
Contact Nos. 0919-2045553 / 0918-9286714 / 771-0138 / 893-8556 and may look for ms. angie septimo / ms. amie romero or email us hrd@drugmakersbiotech.com
or you may send your application to
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
DRUGMAKERS BIOTECH RESEARCH LABORATORIES, INC.
E&E Industrial Complex Narra Road Brgy. San Antonio San Pedro, Laguna

NOTICE OF PREQUALIFICATION TO BID

A foreign-assisted project is currently providing capacity-building support to the Philippine government and local government units in the Anti-Smoke Belching Program.
In line with this activity, we are pre-qualifying suppliers, manufacturers, and/ or repair service providers of any of the following items:

1. **Diesel Motor Vehicle Emissions Testing Equipment** (Opacimeters) – Supply & Repair
2. **UHF/VHF Transceivers**
3. **Reflectorized Traffic Safety Cones** - Supply
4. **Reflectorized Traffic Officer'sVests** – Supply
5. **3M Half-mask Respirators** - Model 6200/6100 (small); Model 2071 2091 (99.7% efficient); Filters & Filter Adaptors

Interested firms must submit the following information on or before September 15, 2005:
- Registered Name of Company & Owner's Name(s)
- Contact Information (Address, Phone, Fax, Email)
- Copy of SEC Registration
- References (List of Past and Present Clients)
- Description & Sample Costing of Product/Service Offerings

Please submit your firm's credentials to:
Mr. Jhay Omega Bufi
ECAP
Unit 2606 Raffles Corporate Center, Emerald Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel No: 914-1106 to 08

PDI-Sept 4 2005)

TEACH IN THE U.S.

Our company is the local affiliate of R & B Staffing in Pennsylvania. We are currently conducting a pre-screening of qualified teachers with the following specialization for various teaching positions in the United States for School Yr 2006-07.

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SCIENCE * ESL

CALL (02) 746-2493

For teachers from the Visayas, Mindanao & Northern Luzon we will conduct orientations in Cebu and Baguio in September. Please e-mail your resume to pinnaclecms@yahoo.com for initial evaluation

PINNACLE CMS International Corp.
WE ARE NOT A RECRUITMENT AGENCY - NO PLACEMENT OR PROCESSING FEES

De La Salle Santiago Zobel School

University Avenue, Ayala Alabang Village
Muntinlupa City

DLSZ is accepting applications for Junior Prep SY 2006- 2007
September 5 - October 7, 2005

Applicants must be four (4) years & six (6) months old by June 2006.

For more details, visit our website www.zobel.dlsu.edu.ph or call the Admissions Office at 8091868.
Applications will be processed Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. only.

Rice supply in Capiz sufficient

THE NATIONAL Food Authority here assured sufficient rice stocks for Capizeños as NFA stock inventory is recorded at 32,620 bags representing 22.38 percent of the total inventory of the province. NFA Capiz provincial manager Sergio Balofiños, Jr. said the food agency is keeping both local and imported rice stocks in its Bolo and Dumalag grains warehouses which will be used as food security stocks. In addition, the NFA has milled some 25,000 bags of palay and rice was distributed to the 17 municipalities of Capiz for the lean months. Commercial rice stocks, meanwhile, is reported at 45,761 bags and sold between P25 to P28 per kilogram. NFA rice is being sold at P16 and P18 per kilogram through the Bigasan ni Gloria sa Palengke (BGP) outlets, Tindahan ni Gloria sa Barangay (TGB) and through NFA-accredited outlets both inside and outside public markets. For more information on NFA programs, the public may send their inquiries via the Text NFA Program through mobile number 0917-6210927.

Virgin of Peñafrancia festivities in Manila

UNABLE to go to Naga City for the Peñafrancia festivities? You may still experience it by joining the **Metro Manila festivities on September 8, 9, 10 and 11.**

The Peñafrancia Devotees Association of Metro Manila, headed by its President, Dr. Charito Prieto-Felipe, is inviting you to the Annual Metro Manila Festivities in celebration of the **Feast of the Virgin of Peñafrancia, the miraculous Patroness of the Bicol Region, our Blessed "INA".**

After a motocade procession on September 8 at 2:30 p.m. that will pass through the major streets of Mandaluyong and Makati, **a Triduum of Novena Prayers and Masses for "INA" will be held at the St. Andrew the Apostle Church at Nicanor Garcia St. (Reposo St.) Bel-Air Makati, every 6 p.m. on September 8, 9, and 10.**

On **September 11, Sunday at 4 p.m.**, experience a centuries-old practice when you take part in the traditional **Peñafrancia Fluvial Procession along the Pasig River**, from our embarkation point at the Hospicio de San Jose at the Ayala Bridge to Jones Bridge, Escolta, Manila. All devotees are invited to be there. A large decorated barge with the Blessed Virgin of Peñafrancia on board will be accompanied by all-male devotees and the Philippine Coast Guards present during the Fluvial Procession. So, please be there and join "INA" on board.

On **September 11, Sunday at 6 p.m.**, a solemn **concelebrated High Mass led by Bishop Nestor Cariño** will be the highlight of the festivities, with the **Manila Cathedral as its venue.**

Please join us in honoring and thanking "INA" through our loving presence and prayers, in these Triduum of Novenas, Processions and Masses.

For inquiries, please call the Peñafrancia Devotees Association's Secretariat at 531-5177, 531-9430, 531-5906 and 531-6158.

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2005

OBITUARIES

RATE
P245 per column centimeter
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINE
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

In Memory of our Beloved

Atty. Rogelio M. Catane, Sr.

November 5, 1933 – August 30, 2005

Peacefully joined our Lord at the age of 71.

His wife, ***Teresita Diez-Catane;***

children and in-laws:

Tata and Dax Sanchez, Maynne and Oca Estalilla, Roy and Christine Garcia, Cyndy and Paul Rodriguez, Bobby and Suzette Villavelez, Fr. Raphy, Trixie and Eric Adlawan, Yangyang and Melody Honorio, and Randy;

brothers and sisters, grandchildren, niece, nephews and relatives; request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at
Sacred Heart Church Mortuary, Cebu City.
Interment will be on ***Tuesday, 6th September 2005***
at the ***Cebu Memorial Park*** *after the*
9:30 a.m. Holy Mass.

"When we get to the place where there is nothing left but God, we find that God is all we need... keep your faith in our trustworthy God."

ANGELINA LEJANO CASTAÑEDA

of Lian, Batangas

peacefully joined the Creator and her husband, ***Dr. Fidel T. Castañeda*** *(†)*
on September 2, 2005 at the age of 89.

Her loving children and children-in-law:

Oscar & Ninicoy Castañeda
Carmelita & Norberto Reyes, Jr.
Celia & Ruben Lumbera
Aida & Eduardo de la Rosa
Eva & Reuben Magsino
Delia & Amor de Jesus
Renato & Bing Castañeda
Victoria & Raul Dazon

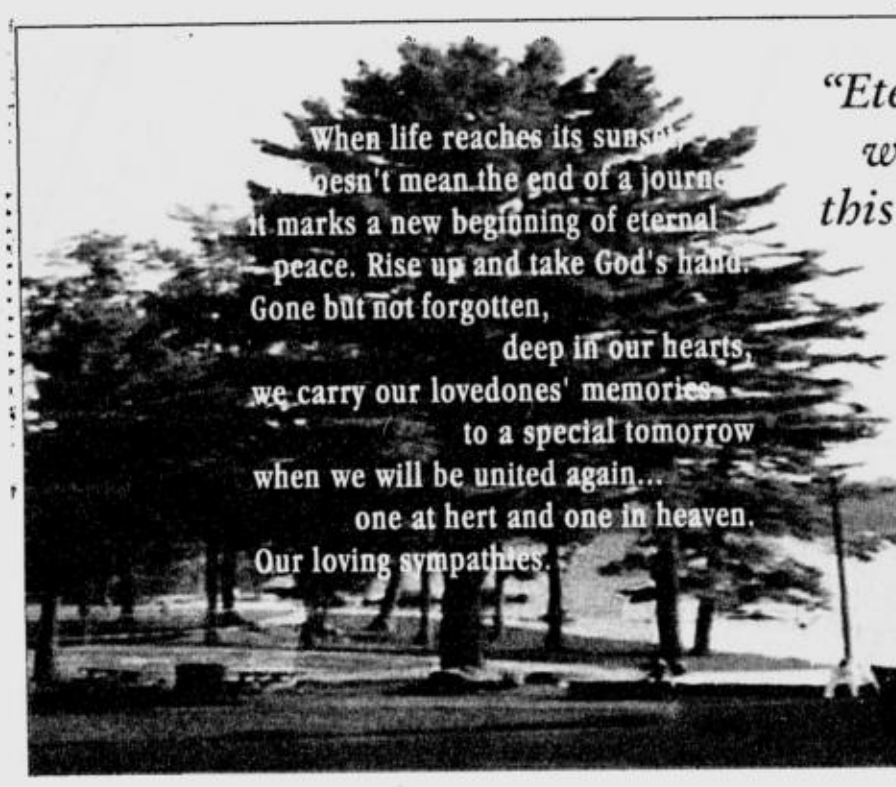
Siblings:

Pacita L. Limjoco, Rafael V. Lejano and **Leonila L. Martinez;**

nephews, nieces, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park), Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, September 6, 2005 at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City after the celebration of the 8:30 a.m. Holy Mass at La Funeraria Paz.



"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."
2 Cor. 5:4-5

OBITUARIES
on
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
NATIONAL
CLASSIFIEDS
The Widest Reaching Classifieds

ATTY. NORMAN T. BOCAR

Provincial Environment and Tourism of Eastern Samar

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on the 1st of September 2005 at the age of 57.

He will be missed by his sisters **Erlinda, Madeleine. Fe, Bernadette** and **Maribel**; brothers **Edgar. Renato, Jorge Jr.** and **Ranilo**; sisters-in-law **Agnes. Lucy, Aldin** and **Lou**; brothers-in-law **Jessee** and **Joey**; nieces **Beverly, Vida, Rizza, Tala, Arra** and **Rachel**; nephews **Noynoy, Cocoy, Chinggoy, Bryan, Jopo, Raniel, Bunsoy** and **Richard**; grandnephew **Boogie**; other relatives, officemates and friends, to whom he has given much. They request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence in Borongan, Eastern Samar.

Interment will be announced later.

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTRAL OFFICE
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Bldg #6, San Lazaro Compound,
Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila, Philippines
Tel. No. (632) 743-83-01 Local 1625/1627
E-mail Address: www.doh.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health

The Department of Health (DOH), through the General Appropriations Act of 2005 intends to apply the sum below to payments under the contract for the following:

Item No.	Description	ABC in Philippine Pesos	Activities	
			Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline for Submission and Opening of Bids
1	Procurement of Information Technology Equipment and Peripherals (IAEB No. 2005-9-28-[10])	10,223,750.00	Sept. 14, 2005 10.00 a.m.	Sept. 28, 2005 10.00 a.m
2	Procurement of Personal Protective Equipment (IAEB No. 2005-10-4[11])	999,000.00	Sept. 21, 2005 10.00 a.m.	Oct. 4, 2005 10.00 a.m.
3	Printing of Various IEC Materials (IAEB No. 2005-10-5 [12])	3,076,500.00	Sept. 21, 2005 1:30 p.m.	Oct. 5, 2005 1.30 p.m.

2. The DOH now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the procurement of the above-mentioned goods. Delivery of the GOODS is required by *thirty (30) calendar days*. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/ fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement Division and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Three Thousand Philippine Pesos (PhP3,000.00) for the Procurement of I.T. Equipment and Peripherals; Five Hundred Philippine Pesos (PhP500.00) for the Procurement of Personal Protective Equipment and One Thousand Philippine Pesos (PhP1,000.00) for the Printing of Various IEC Materials. Payment shall be strictly on a cash basis. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

6. The DOH will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties at the address below.

7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the following form and amount in Pesos. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Form of Bid Security	Minimum Amount in % of the Approved Budget for the Contract for the lot for which Bid is Submitted
Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)
Bank guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)

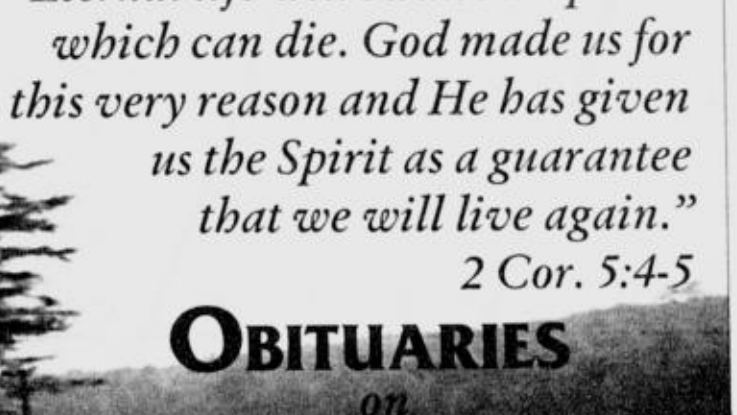
8. Bid opening shall be held at the address below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend.

9. The *DOH* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the Bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Central Office Bids and Awards Committee
Ground Floor, Building 6
Department of Health
San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila
Telephone No.: 743-83-01 local 1625 an 1626
Telefax No : 741-97-75

(Sgd) ALEXANDER A. PADILLA
Undersecretary of Health and
COBAC Chairperson

(PDI-Aug. 28 & Sept. 4, 2005)



SHOWN in photo signing the memorandum agreement are (from left): **John B. Tubongbanua, AVP for Academic Services-STI; Reuel K. Virtucio-STI, VP for Academics-STI, Jesse Francis Rebustillo, Classified Ads Division Head-Inquirer and Lourdes C. Diaz, Inquirer Classifieds sales manager.**

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

A Warrant of Arrest has been issued by the Regional Trial Court of Quezon City, Branch No. 37 (Criminal Cases No. 128975 to 128980 for Estafa and B.P. No. 22) against **Ceasar Cruz** with last known address at 375 Dr. J. Hernandez St, Mauway, Mandaluyong City. Any information on subject whereabouts may be relayed to Atty. Nick A. Aquino (0919-8235826) or the nearest NBI or PNP Station.

(PDI - Sept. 4, 2005)

For jobseekers, log on to: **www.jobmarketonline.com**

Developing Your Supervisory Leadership

September 21, 2005
1:00p.m. - 5:00p.m.
Holiday Inn Galleria

Porter & Miles
Your Partner for Career Development

The productive or anemic performance of your people and your business depends largely on your supervisors. If they can effectively guide, control and motivate the people, the desired result will be achieved. Unfortunately, supervision is anything but easy. In fact, what often happens is that when a productive worker is promoted to a supervisory position, the company loses an effective worker and gains a poor supervisor. This is known as the Peter Principle and this is largely attributable to lack of fundamental skills and attitude training in supervision. Lack of training is a sure-fire formula for failure. This powerful program is designed to equip and empower the Supervisors by providing them the fundamental and advanced concepts and tools to professionalize their management style and enable them to effectively lead their team.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

* New or recently promoted supervisors with less than three years of formal supervisory experience;
* Experienced supervisors or managers reentering the job market and looking to update their resumes
* Informal leaders who have an unofficial supervisory role leading teams of coworkers or volunteers
* Individuals whose career plans include becoming a supervisor in the near future

LEARNING SEED

Session I: Why some supervisors fail
Session II: Becoming a supervisor
Session III: The nuts and bolts of supervision
Session IV: Planning and goal setting
Session V: Leading you people
Session VI: How to motivate fro result

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>>>Regular Rate<<<
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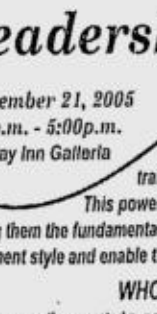
Website: www.pmi.com.ph

Pups For Sale!!!



MINIATURE SCHNAUZER
3 months old
w/complete shots and papers
smart, doesn't shed, alert.
very trainable
salt and pepper color
Champion Line
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"Waiting in the wings" at the CCP

FOLLOWING on the success of the Singthroughs of the National Theater Festival in 2004, the Cultural Center of the Philippines opens its doors to new works and artists with a festival of works in progress billed "Waiting in the Wings." Featured in the program are:

September 8

Bulwagang Amado Hernandez 5 pm Artist Inc., Ang Teen Artist present **Friendster**. In this play, three friends enter a fantasy world as they do research on "El Filibusterismo", "Florante at Laura" and "Alamat ng ibong Adarna".

September 22

Bulwagang Amado Hernandez 5 pm Nicolas Matias Sengson's **THE CREATION**, a symphonic setting of the seven days of creation according to the first book of Genesis.

October 6

Bulwagang Amado Hernandez 5 pm Cris Mojica presents songs and dances from the musical **APOY SA HANGIN.**

October 19

Bulwagang Amado Hernandez 5 pm Palanca Award winning playwright VictorTorres teams up with Palanca Award winning poet Lourd De Veyra to present **The Exiles**, a play on the passions of political exiles.

October 26

Bulwagang Amado Hernandez 5 pm. The renowned Labayen Dance International Workshop presents the culminating activity of a series of workshops in modern dance.

November 9

Bulwagang Amado Hernandez 5 pm Fides Cuyugan Asencio and Music Theater Philippines presents **Maria Makiling at ang Mga Nuno Sa Punso**, a new take on the legend of Mariang Makiling.

November 24

Bulwagang Amado Hernandez 5 pm Tambul Dance and Theater Ensemble/Filemon Blanco.

ADMISSION IS FREE. For more information, please call the CCP Performing Arts Department at tel. no. 832-1125 local 1600-01.

NFA Rice now in BGPs in Antique

SOME 21 Bigasan ni Gloria sa Palengke (BGP) outlets in Antique now sell good quality but low-priced government rice to cater to the needs of the people, especially this traditional lean months period.

According to National Food Authority provincial manager Procopio B. Trabajo II, the BGPs will be entitled to additional rice allocations. As outlets dedicated to solely sell NFA rice, the BGPs sell NFA rice at P16 for regular-milled and P18 per kilogram for the well-milled varieties.

Aside from the BGPs, the agency has 55 accredited rice outlets located outside markets in the various towns in the province, including the island municipality of Caluya. All these outlets contribute to the local NFA's efforts to maintain the food security of Antique, Trabajo said.

Meanwhile, after more than two decades, the first rice shipment to the island of Caluya was undertaken recently at the Lipata port, assuring the residents of stable supply and prices of the commodity. Residents of the island municipality relied solely on commercial rice for their rice requirements sincethe latter part of the 70's.

Throughthe close coordination of Manager Trabajo with Caluya Mayor Domingo Frangue, an initial rice outlet has been identified to serve the municipality. The initial shipment of 60 bags of NFA rice is expected to substantially sustain the local rice requirement.

NFA program for corn and palay farmers in Cotabato

THE NATIONAL Food Authority office in Cotabato has revived the implementation of the procurement program dubbed 'Farmers Option to Buy Back' (FOBB) to help the agency's accredited corn and palay farmers to increase their income from their grains production endeavors.

Provincial manager Fernando S. Nuñez said that the program allows individual farmers and Farmers' Organizations/ Cooperatives selling corn and palay to the NFA to buy back the volume they sold to the agency within six (6) months after selling them to the agency.

The scheme provides farmers the opportunity to avail of their stocks as the need arises. The minimum deposit is 100 bags for individual farmers and 200 bags for Farmers' Organizations/Cooperatives.

Nuñez also said that farmers are provided the opportunity to maximize their earnings through proper timing in the sale of their stocks. Farmers are also given warehouse space for proper storage of their stocks to ensure the quality of their produce.

Under the program, farmers' entrepreneurial capabilities are enhanced while they are encouraged to be involved in food security and stabilization.

Under the program, a total of 27, 960 bags of palay worth P16.8 million were delivered by five Cooperatives/Farmers Organizations in the province for the year 2004 up to the 2nd quarter of 2005. These cooperatives/farmers' organiza tions claimed they were able to generate substantial income from this program.

National Steel Corporation

FOR SALE

GENERAL DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
I. ASSORTED MOTORS, VARIOUS RATING 3.7KW – 400 KW	62 UNITS
II. BOLT-MACHINE HEXAGONAL HEAD SIZE 1/2" x 1" L	819,000 PCS.
III. NUT – HEXAGONAL SIZE 1/2" DIAMETER	600,000 PCS.

NOTES:

1. Items are located and can be inspected at the former National Steel Corporation Iligan Plant, Suarez, Iligan City c/o Mr. Pat Capuno Tel. No. (063) 492-2881 to 82.
2. Interested parties may inquire at the Office of the Liquidator at Tel. No. 752-4495 to 98 c/o Mr. Jess Garcia, Mr. Larry de Lara, or Ms. Cely Agliam.
3. Deadline for submission of offer is on September 23, 2005 2PM.
4. The NSC Liquidator reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

Bicol University
Legazpi City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The *BICOL UNIVERSITY*, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	**THREE STOREY COMMERCIAL-EDUCATIONAL BUILDING, PHASE II, (BU ARCADE)**
Location	Rizal Street, Daraga, Albay
Brief Description	The items of work include mobilization, sitework, concrete and steel works, masonry works, plumbing works, electrical works, equipment rental, layouting, forms and scaffolding work
Approved Budget For the Contract (ABC)	*Php9,650,000.00*
Contract Duration	200 c.d.
Source of Fund	Fund 164

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

	BAC Activities	Schedule
1.	Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	August 29, 2005-September 11, 2005
2.	Issuance of Eligibility Forms	August 29, 2005-September 12, 2005
3.	Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	August 30, 2005-September 14, 2005
4.	Last day of Eligibility Requirements	September 14, 2005, 9:00 A.M.
5.	Date of Opening of Eligibility Requirements	September 14, 2005, 9:00 A.M.
6.	Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	September 14, 2005
7.	Issuance of Bid Documents	September 14, 2005-September 19, 2005
8.	Pre Bid Conference	September 19, 2005
9.	Receipt and Opening of Bids	October 5, 2005, 9:00 A.M.

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at *BAC Office, Zonal Center, 2/F MP Bldg., Bicol University, Legazpi City* upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of *Php100.00* to the *Bicol University Cashier*. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of *Php12,500.00* to the *Bicol University* Cashier.

The *Bicol University* assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids. The Bicol University reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) DR. OFELIA S. VEGA
BAC Chairman

(PDI - August 28 & September 04, 2005)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Regional Office I-San Juan, La Union
Tel. No.: (072)242-59-09 & (072)700-25-79 Fax No.: (072) 242-59-07/08
Web site:www.nfa.gov.ph /E-mail Address:nfa-region1@sflu.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR TRUCKING/HAULING SERVICES

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites all interested Trucking/Hauling Operators to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the supply of Trucking/Hauling Services for more or less 8,475 MT or 169,500 bags Imported Iron Fortified Rice covering the following specific routes:

A. From Poro Port to Staging Warehouses within La Union:

Lot No.	Receiving Warehouse	Distance (km)	Volume (bags)	Trucking Reqmt (No.)	Load/Cap Reqmt.	Approved Budget (ABC)
1	San Juan GID	10.60	60,000	16	6,400	420,000.00
2	Obar Warehouse	36.80	6,000	2	800	45,000.00
3	Caragay Whse.	22.60	33,500	9	2,400	251,250.00
4	Aringay Whse.	24.10	35,000	9	2,400	262,500.00
5	Agoo Whse.	25.10	35,000	9	2,400	262,500.00

B. From La Union Staging Warehouses to the different warehouses within Region I:

Lot No.	Receiving Warehouse	Distance (km)	Volume (bags)	Trucking Reqmt (No.)	Load/Cap Reqmt.	Approved Budget (ABC
6	Bangued GID, Abra	138.0	3,000	2	800	45,960.00
7	Baguio City, Benguet	75.5	15,500	6	1,800	255,750.00
8	Laoag GID, Ilocos Norte	214.0	9,000	3	2,000	194,490.00
9	Dingras GID, Ilocos Norte	242.0	2,000	2	800	48,880.00
10	Tan Whse., Ilocos Sur	156.5	3,000	2	800	48,360.00
11	Bantay GID, Ilocos Sur	130.5	4,500	2	800	65,205.00
12	Sta. Maria Whse., Ilocos Sur	91.7	1,500	1	800	16,095.00
13	Chua Warehouse, Ilocos Sur	60.5	2,500	2	800	17,700.00
14	Tagudin FLGC, Ilocos Sur	44.3	2,000	1	800	11,380.00
15	Binalonan Triplex, Eastern Pangasinan	82.0	20,000	4	1,200	191,800.00
16	Rosales I, Eastern Pangasinan	110.0	20,000	4	1,200	244,200.00
17	Alaminos GID, Western Pangasinan	132.0	15,000	3	1,200	219,750.00
18	Kazenbar IV Whse., Western Pangasinan	85.2	44,000	8	2,400	438,680.00
19	Ferrer II Whse, Western Pangasinan	107.2	10,000	2	800	119,000.00

Interested Trucking/Hauling Operators may bid in any or all specified/preferred destinations.

The Schedule of Bidding activities are as follows:

Activity	Date
1. Publication	
1st Publication	September 2, 2005
2nd Publication	September 9, 2005
2. Issuance of Application and List of Eligibility Requirements, Bidding Documents	September 2-16, 2005 (8:00 AM-5:00 PM)
3. Pre-Bidding Conference	September 19, 2005 (3:00 PM.)
4. Deadline for the Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals (Opening of Bids will follow immediately)	September 30, 2005 (3:00 PM)

RBAC reserves the right to undertake Alternative Mode should the subject vessel will arrive earlier than the bidding schedule. All those who secured bidding documents from September 2-16, 2005 will be informed accordingly on the alternative mode that will be adopted by the RBAC.

The application forms, eligibility requirements and other bid documents shall be obtained from the RBAC Secretariat after payment of a non-refundable bidding fee in the amount of P2,500.00.

The pre-bid conference and bidding proper shall be conducted at the NFA Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NFA Office Building, San Juan, La Union. All Trucking/Hauling Operators interested to participate in the bidding must be registered/accredited with NFA. Interested bidders who are not NFA-Accredited Trucking/Hauling Operators and/or whose Registration had already expired may still participate provided they shall apply for accreditation/renewal at NFA Region I not later than September 16, 2005.

The eligibility of prospective bidders shall be determined using simple "Pass/Fail criteria and shall be considered as either "Eligible" or "Ineligible". If the prospective bidder is rated "Passed" for all the requirements, he shall be considered "Eligible". If the prospective bidder is rated "Failed" in any one of the requirements, he shall be considered "Ineligible".

A single stage bidding will be adopted using a simple pass/fail criteria for the evaluation. The prospective bidders shall submit simultaneously two (2) envelopes. Envelope A containing the eligibility requirements and Envelope B containing bidding documents. Contents of each of the bid envelopes are specified in the Instruction to Bidders.

Eligibility criteria includes among others that the value of the prospective bidder's largest single contract within the last three (3) years, adjusted to current prices, completed within the period and similar to the contract be bid must at least be 50% of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR TO AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA AND/OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

For further inquiries, please contact the RBAC Chairman Ruben S. Rimando or RBAC Secretariat c/o Ms. Gloria Daclan at the Regional Office 01, San Juan, La Union or at Tel. Nos. (072)-242-59-09 and (072)-700-25-79

RUBEN S. RIMANDO
Asst. Regional Manager & RBAC Chairman

(PDI – September 4 & 9, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Tawi-tawi
Municipality of Sitangkal

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Land Reform (DLR) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts of Rural Infrastructure Component for which this Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid is issued.

The local Government Unit of Sitangkal, Tawi-tawi, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as **Medium "A"** or higher for similar contract to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	:	Sibutu Potable Water System – Level II
Location	:	Sibutu ARC, Sitangkal, Tawi-tawi
Brief Description	:	Well Development & Installation of 2-unit Suction Pipe Laying and Construction of Pump house, Elevated Reservoir and Parameter Fences
Approved Budget Cost	:	Php. 12,134,594.46
Contract Duration	:	190 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	September 17-23, 2005
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	September 17-23, 2005
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	September 23, 2005
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	September 26, 2005
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 28 to October 03, 2005
6. Pre-bid Conference	September 30, 2005; 9:00AM
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	October 13, 2005; 2:00PM

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders *Eligibility Forms* at BAC Secretariat, Municipal Hall *Sitangkal, Tawi-tawi* upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of **One Thousand Five Hundred pesos only (Php 1,500.00)** to the LGU of *Sitangkal's* Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility check by the BAC at the same address.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the following forms:

1. Cash/certified check/cashier's check/manager's check in the amount of one percent (1%) of ABC which is P121,346.00;
2. Surety Bond which is two and a half percent (2.5%) of ABC in the amount of P303,364.90 callable on demand and issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) or by reputable surety or insurance company and to be posted in favor of LGU – Sitangkal, Tawi-tawi.

The BAC will issue *Bidding Documents* only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos only (Php 1,500.00)** to the LGU of *Sitangkal's* Cashier.

The LGU of Sitangkal reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) MAHDUM T. SAMUDDIN
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 4, 2005)

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation

A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
ITB NO.: 08-100-2005

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is inviting all interested bidders in its forthcoming public bidding for the project stated hereunder:

Name of Project: Supply & Delivery of Vehicles

LOT	Vehicle Type	Approved Budget
1	Ten (10) units Brand New Compact Sedan Model: 2005 M/T Gas Min. Displacement: 1,596cc, 4 Cylinder-In-Line, 16V, DOHC, WTI	Seven Million Forty Six Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Pesos (P7,046,560.00)
2	Ten (10) units Brand New Mini-van Model: 2005 DSL M/T Min. Displacement: 2,494cc, 4 Cylinder-In-line, 16V, DOHC (Turbo Diesel)	Eight Million One Hundred Fifty Eight Thousand Thirty Pesos (P8,158,030.00)

Source of Fund: Internally Funded

Only suppliers duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered suppliers must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila, Tel. No. 526-0573.

The detailed project particulars and instructions to bidders are discussed in the **Bid Documents** available for issuance from **September 1, 2005 to September 23, 2005** at the BAC Secretariat Unit, PPD-Corporate upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Three Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Three Pesos & 28/100 (Php3,523.28) for Lot 1 and Four Thousand Seventy Nine Pesos & 01/100 (Php4,079.01) for Lot 2. In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BAC Secretariat.

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule	
Pre-Bid Conference	September 7, 2005	(10am)
Submission of Bids	September 22, 2005	(10am)
Opening of Bids	September 22, 2005	(10 am onwards)

PAGCOR reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information, and the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, to waive any defects or formalities found therein and to accept such bid or a part thereof as may be deemed most advantageous to PAGCOR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

PAGCOR reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract if there is *prima facie* evidence of collusion between appropriate public officers or employees of the agency, or between the BAC and any of the bidders, or if the collusion is between or among the bidders themselves, or between a bidder and a third party, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies or tends to restrict, suppress or nullify competition, or if the BAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures, or for any justifiable and reasonable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the government (R.A. 9184, Sec. 41)

Please address all communications to the BAC Secretariat Unit, Procurement & Property Department.

(Sgd) RAFAEL A. FRANCISCO
Chairperson, BAC 3

(PDI- August 28 & September 4, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Ilo-ilo
Municipality of Ajuy

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Date: September 4 & 11, 2005
Contract ID No.: SP-068-IN-01
World Bank Loan No.: 4446 PH

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of Local Government Finance and Development and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for the ***Construction of 10 units 2-Classroom School Building for Package 1 and Construction of 10 units 2-Classroom School Building for Package 2.*** Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.*
2. The ***Municipality of Ajuy, Province of Iloilo*** invites sealed bids from eligible sources for the ***Construction of 10 units 2-Classroom School Building for Package 1 and Construction of 10 units 2-Classroom School Building for Package 2.***
3. Bidding documents may be purchased starting ***September 12 from 8:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M.*** at the ***General Services Office, Municipality of Ajuy, Iloilo, New Municipal Building*** upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of ***Three Thousand Five Hundred (Php 3,500.00)*** or its equivalent in a freely-convertible currency, for each set Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ***ninty (90) days*** after bid opening and must be accompanied by bid security of ***Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php250,00.00) for Package 1 and Package 2*** in a form of cash, certified check, bank guarantee in a form specified in the bidding data and shall be delivered to the ***Office of the BAC Chairman/Municipal Engineer, Municipality of Ajuy, Iloilo, New Municipal Building*** on or before ***10:00 A.M.*** on ***October 12, 2005*** at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend
5. A pre-bid conference will be held at ***Ajuy Municipal Session Hall, Ajuy, Iloilo on September 27, 2005 at 10:00 A.M.***

(Sgd.) Engr. NILO HINOJALES
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 4 & 11, 2005)

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FLOWERS IN BLOOM. Even when the rains pour, flower shops in Baguio City remain in business. According to Ed Guevara (left) of Aromin Orchids and Anthuriums, "flowers are food for the soul."

Sunday BIZ

Cold cash in cool city

Despite dense business climate, Baguio traders still bullish

By Vincent Cabreza
Photos by EV Espiritu

CAFÉ Cicada is a simulation restaurant that tries to imbibe the best of what Baguio City has to offer, but the hotel and management students of Pines City Colleges have to first

COLD/ B3

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- *Surprises/D,G*
- *Weddings/E*
- *Home/F*

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2005

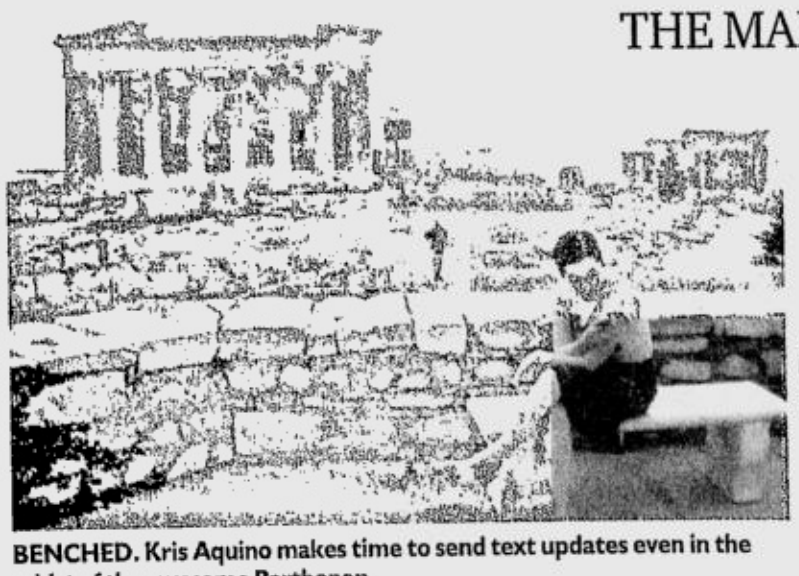
Text your feedback:
inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)
or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

PROVOCATIVE. Kris and Ivo turn up the heat in Greece.

THE MAKING OF A BENCH BILLBOARD

Under the Grecian sun



BENCHED. Kris Aquino makes time to send text updates even in the midst of the awesome Parthenon.

Text and photos by Beia Formoso

"*ANG SAYA*!" exclaimed a gleeful Kris Aquino.

"You're too happy, Kris. Your smile is too big. Don't be too happy!" barked Jun de Leon from behind the camera, which was totally expected of the country's top photographer and the official lensman of the Bench Body-Kris Aquino ad campaign.

But could anyone blame Kris? After all, she was being caressed (some would say fondled — touch is relative) by three disarmingly gorgeous European male models in the pristine blue waters of Paradise Beach. This was on the isle of Mykonos in none other than Greece!

Famous match-up

In yet another brilliant and daring stroke of advertising genius, Bench teamed up with Famous—yes, those star-studded cruise voyages and trips to faraway destinations like Australia, Egypt and now Greece—to bring their most popular Bench Body endorser to the land of gods and goddesses.

Famous 9, spearheaded of course by Keren Pascual, embarked on a week-long journey to Athens and Mykonos, an island off the coast of the capital. Aside from the photo shoot, on the agenda were exploring the Acropolis, hitting the Athenian nightlife, sunbathing on Paradise beach, and of course, wining and dining as the Greeks do.

Upon arrival in Greece, Bench screened dozens of European models to find the perfect Adonis worthy of donning Bench Body wear and appearing on a billboard with Kris. Those who made the cut were Ivo Zachan, a tall easygoing Slovakian who clicks with Pinoy humor, and Maximilian Eisler of Germany, a dead-ringer for Ryan Philippe.

A late addition to the roster was Jacob Sombiracoul, a half-Greek, half-Thai whose physique and handsome face so stood out while strolling along the boardwalk in Mykonos there was no doubt he would be a natural underwear model.

Bench also tapped a pretty Danish blonde, 18-year-old Alexandria, to model the latest garments from Kashieca and Greyhound alongside the Philippines' own Nicolette Bell, herself half-British.

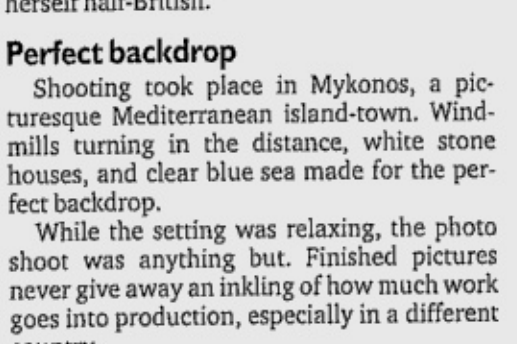
Perfect backdrop

Shooting took place in Mykonos, a picturesque Mediterranean island-town. Windmills turning in the distance, white stone houses, and clear blue sea made for the perfect backdrop.

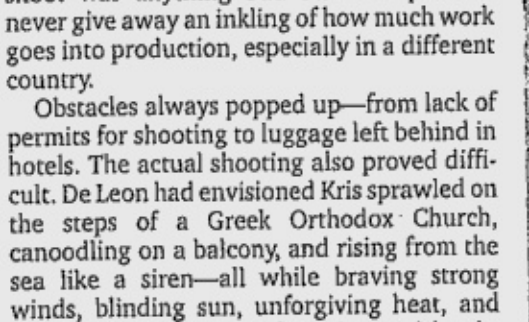
While the setting was relaxing, the photo shoot was anything but. Finished pictures never give away an inkling of how much work goes into production, especially in a different country.

Obstacles always popped up—from lack of permits for shooting to luggage left behind in hotels. The actual shooting also proved difficult. De Leon had envisioned Kris sprawled on the steps of a Greek Orthodox Church, canoodling on a balcony, and rising from the sea like a siren—all while braving strong winds, blinding sun, unforgiving heat, and the constant gawking of tourists and locals. Not to mention endless wardrobe changes

UNDER/ C2



KRIS with her wedding *ninong* Ben Chan



GREEK Adonises shoot at Paradise Beach.

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* 13.9% p.a. Home Rate Shield applies to booked loan accounts from September 1 to December 31, 2005
** Insurance is based on loan amount. Maximum of 15 years. Terms and conditions apply. See flyers for more details.

Initially available in Metro Manila, Laguna, Cavite and Bulacan. Promo period is from September 1 to December 31, 2005.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5805 Series of 2005.

Under the Grecian sun

THE TEAM braved wind, sun, and endless gawking from tourists at the Mykonos photo shoot.

From page C1

and hair and makeup retouches.

But all the ordeals and drama were forgiven and forgotten as soon as De Leon called out, "I got a good shot here!"

He was being modest, of course! De Leon's photos are never just good. His Greek shots have metamorphosed into the Bench billboards dotting the metro. Gigantic provocative images of Kris Aquino are up along the Guadalupe-Edsa and South Super highways. One more Benchboard is lording it over Quirino Avenue in Paco, Manila, another is in the Magallanes area, and still another is up in far Iloilo City.

New heights

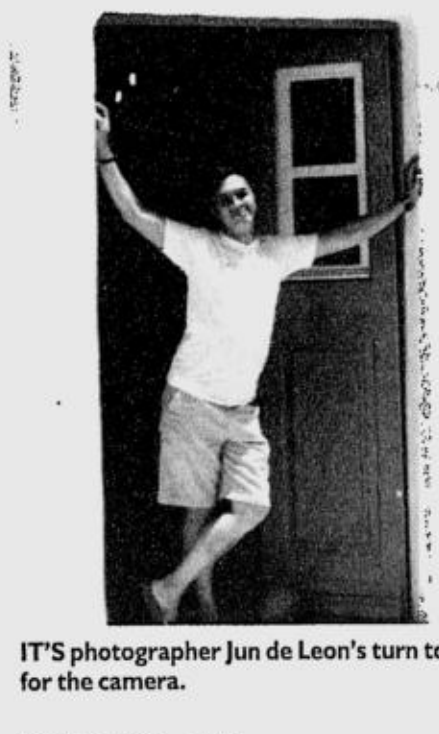
De Leon, who had photographed Kris for her very first product endorsement (not Bench), had only praises for his model's professionalism during shooting. Plus, "there's a natural glow about her these days," he noted, "especially when James (Yap, the pro basketball player rumored to have secretly married her) is around."

The Bench Body ad campaign soared to new heights when it first tapped Kris to model its line of sleek, stylish innerwear at the end of 2004. That her billboards raised eyebrows and elicited a few gasps is an understatement. In fact, even before she signed on, rumors of her possible appearance on the runway of Bench's scandalous underwear fashion show last year drew in crowds. The audience waited with bated breath up until the finale when there was still no sign of Kris, much to the disappointment of her fans.

Fan or not, one cannot help being drawn to Kris Aquino. Even foreigners can't seem to get enough of her, from Asia to the Middle East and, yes, all the way to Europe. While initially she is recognized abroad because of her famous surname, thanks to her mother, former President Corazon Aquino (an image model in her own right except her cause was People Power), Kris' own affairs (pun not intended) are newsbreaking enough to put her on the map. Even Singaporeans would inquire after Kris, since her split-up with Joey Marquez made page one of their local newspaper. Who doesn't know Kris Aquino?

And who doesn't know Bench? With stores all over the Philippines, as well as China, Guam, the Middle East and now the United States, Bench's growth is remarkable and unstoppable. The company sets the bar not only in fashion but also in reaching out to all classes and people through its creative marketing and advertising strategies. Bench always has the public wanting more and looking out for "what's next?" Just like Kris Aquino.

Flying to Greece? Call Gulf Air Manila office (632) 8178383; Cebu (6332) 2557505; fax Manila (632) 8176886; fax Cebu (6332) 2557504 and Meteor Tours, c/o Ligaya Tabirao 0918 912 5177



IT'S photographer Jun de Leon's turn to pose for the camera.

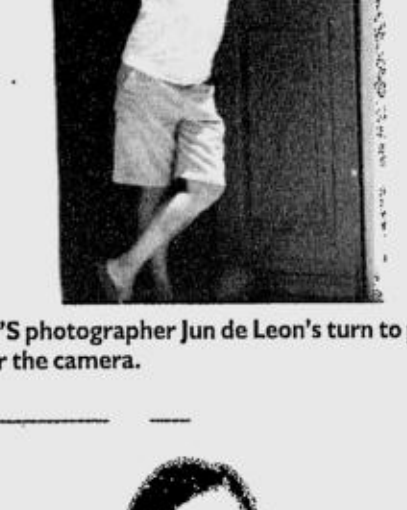
RAMON Ty, Jun de Leon's trusty assistant

JACOB says this was his first time to model. We think not.

MARIEL Santos smiles for the cam.

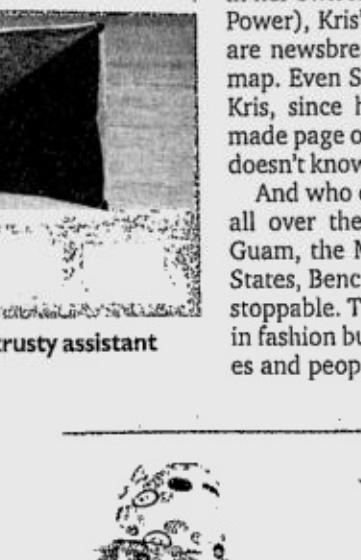
ALEXANDRIA and her drink for the day

BRIGHT-AS-SUNSHINE Nicolette Bell



BRYAN Lim keeps up with his hectic schedule with a cool head and a cold drink.

"DRINK up!" says German boytoy Max Eisler.



HALF-THAI, half-Greek hottie Jacob Sombiracoul

Why Famous voyagers were at their best

HOW did ace photographer Jun de Leon stay sharp and alert through the long photo sessions during the Famous Voyage 9 to Greece? His secret is Berocca.

A food supplement with a unique high dose of B vitamins, Vitamin C and other essential nutrients that are clinically proven to help you stay sharp and alert, Berocca is free from caffeine and artificial stimulants, thus providing a healthy way to sustain optimal performance.

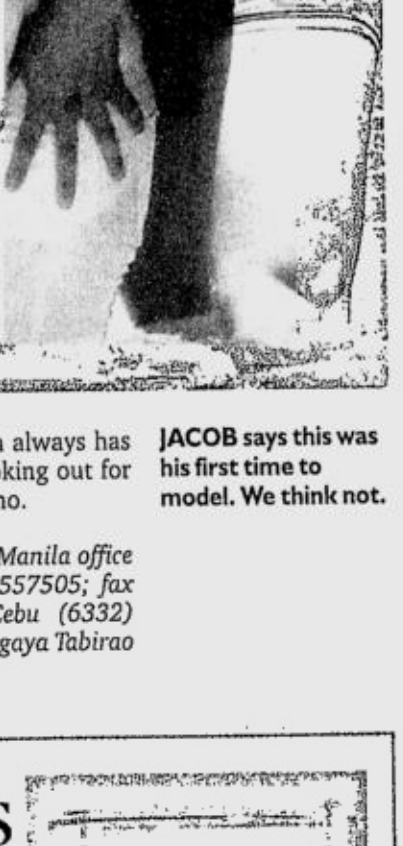
It comes in convenient effervescent tablets that dissolve in water to make a sparkling orange-flavored drink. Its unique form allows the body to quickly absorb its vitamins and minerals.

Pinay model Nicolette Bell held her own against international models Alexandria from Denmark, Ivo Zachan from Greece, Maximilian Eisler from Germany, and half-Thai, half-Greek hottie Jacob Sombiracoul. Even make-up artist Bambi Fuentes stayed cool, layout after layout, with Berocca.

RTW mogul Ben Chan and architect Miguel Pastor of Bench also benefited from the sparkling orange-flavored drink, as they tirelessly supervised the shoots for the next Bench campaign. Cosmo editor Donna Pita and Liza Ilarde of Mega also had their share of shoots, which went by like a breeze.

Other Berocca drinkers on the Famous voyage were fashion designer Rajo Laurel, interior designer and Pineapple co-owner Anton Barretto, and Famous CEE (as in chief executive enabler) Keren Pascual.

With its unique combination of essential nutrients, Berocca is designed to support mental performance for busy people who have to manage a stressful life and want to perform at their best.



DROP a tablet in a glass of water and watch it fizz.

Macau food festival at the mall

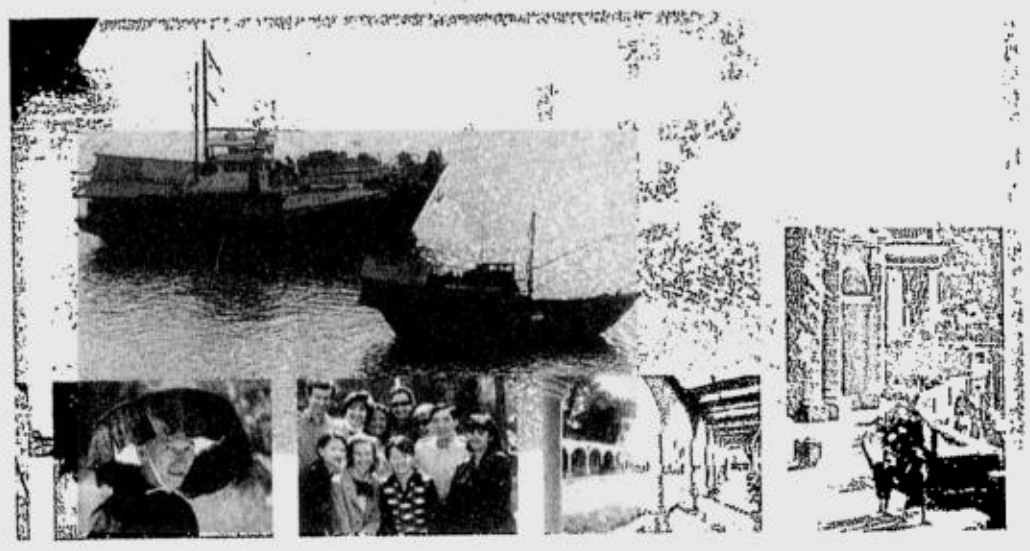
DISCOVER the unique cuisine of Macau as the Macau Food Festival opens at the Garden Café of the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel on Sept. 2-8.

The hotel's food and beverage director Thomas H. Naegeli says three chefs from Macau's famed tourism school, Instituto de Formacao Turistico (IFT)—chefs Chon Kin Kei, Wong Yuk Shan and Wong Man Su—have flown in to prepare the café's lunch and dinner buffets.

Macau's cuisine is heavily influenced by Portugal, having been its colony for many centuries before it was turned over in 1999 to the People's Republic of China to become a Special Autonomous Region (SAR).

The famous wines of Portugal, widely found and enjoyed in Macau, will be on hand, says F&B director Naegeli. The Macau Food Festival at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel is part of Macau Week, a project of the Macau Government Tourist Office in the Philippines.

The celebration carries over to the Atrium at the Shangri-La Plaza, Sept. 2-4, where a Macau Roadshow unfolds, to afford visitors a closer look at the sights, sounds and tastes of Macau. There will be film showings, performances of the 24-member Macau Dance Troupe, artisans demonstrating various arts and crafts, and free samplings of Macanese delicacies and wines.



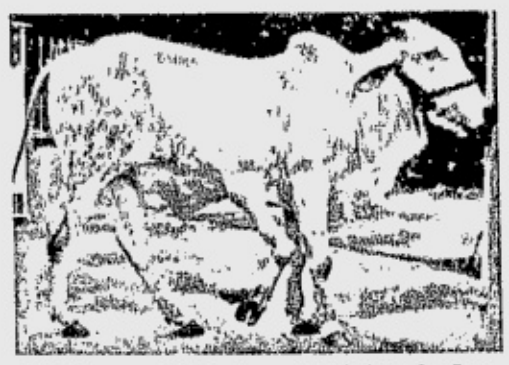
Macau Week is made possible by Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Shangri-La Plaza and Ralph's Wines and Spirits.

Call Jet Cabuslay of the Macau Government Tourist Office-Philippines at 8122595 or 8130947.

TRAVELBRIEFS

Kalakbay quest

THE DEPARTMENT of Tourism and Philippine Convention and Visitors Corporation (PCVC) present the 12th Kalakbay Award's search for local and international entities and individuals that have excelled in management performance and tourism. Kalakbay has seven categories: Institutional, Creative, Individual, Destination, Special Awards, Honorary Ambassadors of Tourism Awards and Lifetime Achievement Award. All entries should be forwarded to Kalakbay Secretariat office at Corporate Relations Department, PCVC, 4/F Suites 5-7, 10-17, Legaspi Towers 300, Roxas Blvd., Metro Manila. E-mail pcvcmemb@dot-pcvc.gov.ph. Entries must be received on or before Sept. 16. Call 5259318; fax (632) 5251153/5256165.



HAVE your photo taken with El Toro the five-legged bull, tigers, llama, dalmatian pig, goats and many more at Zoobic Safari in Subic Freeport Zone and Residence Inn, Tagaytay. It has an extension in Mendez called Paradizoo, a 15-minute drive from Zoobic Safari. Call 8983695/8999824.

The miracle oil for health, beauty and strength now comes with flavors

Add Flavor to Life: The New Flavored Theraherb Virgin Coconut Oil from Splash Pharmaceutical

Finally, the miracle oil from the tree of life now comes in delicious flavors! Now more people can enjoy the health benefits of the tagged "miracle oil" without the nutty after taste as Splash Pharmaceutical Corporation recently launched the Theraherb Flavored Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO).

Lowers risk of heart diseases, helps control diabetes, supports the immune system, promotes weight loss, helps prevent premature skin ageing, aids in preventing osteoporosis, and may even delay the effects of HIV! The list of the VCO's health benefits goes on as new findings are discovered everyday about this amazing oil. But why are most Filipinos restrained from taking VCOs?

Based on Splash's extensive consumer research, one of the main reasons why the respondents do not take VCOs is because of its undesirable nutty after taste. It is not easy to drink "oil" most of the respondents said and that if ever they would take VCOs, it has to be easier to take.

These insights led Splash Pharmaceutical to develop the Theraherb Flavored Virgin Coconut Oil. Now, Splash offers the legendary VCO in different tasteful flavors: Sweet Corn, Banana, and Jackfruit. Of course, for the hard core VCO followers, Splash still offers the natural flavor VCO. There is no doubt that the Philippine's Virgin Coconut oil is continuously earning a good following abroad, most especially in the U.S. and Europe. But what about in the Philippines? Sad to say, that in our own backyard, the demand for Philippine Virgin Coconut Oil is just picking up. According to the Department of Trade and Industry, most of the companies in both organic and natural products are small to medium in sizes which implies that they may not have the marketing operating, and financial capabilities to promote these products effectively. As end result, the Filipinos themselves are missing out on the many benefits of the VCO.

"Some people are hesitant to take the VCO because they do not trust the manufacturer. With the backing of a strong R&D through our very own Splash Research Institute, consumers can rest their worries aside," says Splash Pharmaceutical President and COO Jessin Soriano.

Soriano added that the Theraherb VCO is made from select coconuts and extracted using the cold process method ensuring that all the active ingredients is locked into the finished product.

"What makes the VCO effective is its high lauric acid content, the same component found in mother's milk, which is converted by the body into compounds with anti-viral, anti-microbial, anti-fungal and anti-protozoal properties," Jessin explained.

To further strengthen his claim, Jessin said that the Theraherb Virgin Coconut Oil is registered and certified approved for selling to retail sectors by the Bureau of Food and Drug Authority (BFAD).

Aside from the VCO, Splash also offers a wide range of nutraceuticals under the Theraherb brand that includes products for specific health concerns. Other products now available in the market are SUGARITE, JOINTAIDE, KIDNEYAIDE, and CHOLESTRITE. Like the VCO, these products are made of natural medicinal herbs and plants that are recommended for supplementation to consumers' daily health needs.

With Theraherb flavored VCOs, the consumers may now enjoy the health benefits of this miracle oil in delicious flavors. To this Jessin wittingly quipped, "It's time we add flavor to life!"

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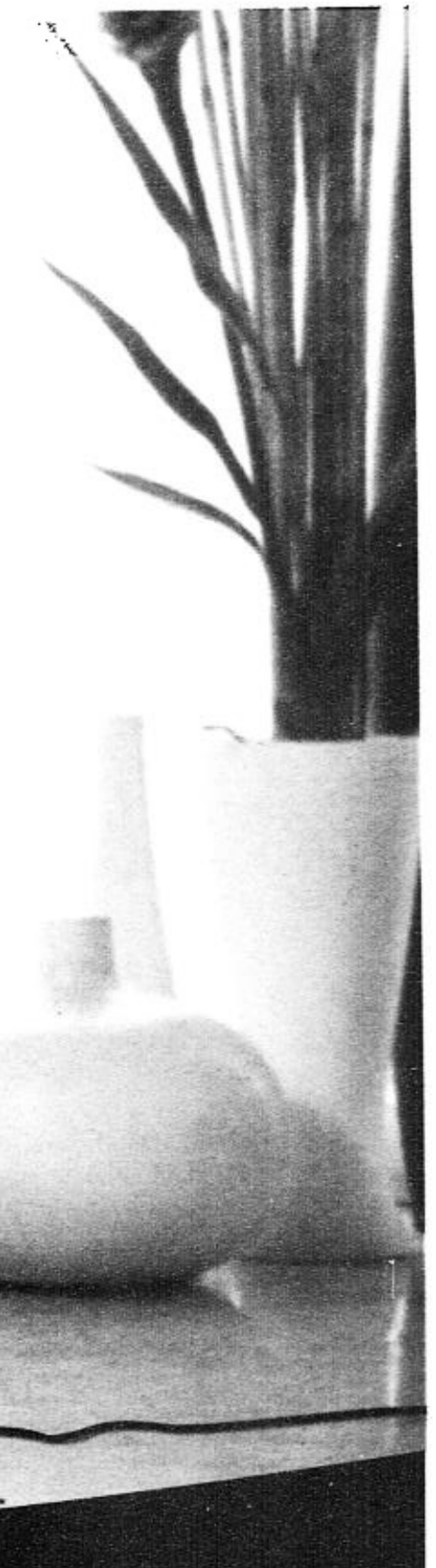

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FR. AGERICO "Jerry" Orbos, Julia Kim and others participate in one of the first small healing Masses held in the country.

Fr. Orbos and Korean visionary Julia Kim team up for a day of prayer, reconciliation and mercy

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2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WELL-KNOWN clergyman and columnist Fr. Orbos, one of the main proponents of the Day of Healing

Miracles expected on Day of Healing

By Jasper Briones
Contributor

LET US open our hearts to healing and to God!

This is the call of Fr. Agerico "Jerry" Orbos, SVD in the run-up to the "Day of Healing" Mass on Sept. 11 at the Ultra in Pasig City.

Fr. Orbos, a member of the Society of the Divine Word and a well-known author and columnist, spoke volumes about the significance of healing as a true gift from God.

"We all need healing, especially at this time when our country is beset by countless problems," he said. "And this healing must first occur within our hearts because the heart is the seat of our values, our decisions and consequently our actions. As long as the heart is not healed, we will see people who are selfish, unjust and corrupt. But once the heart is healed, from it will flow goodness, peace, reconciliation and love."

The religious event will focus on physical, spiritual and national healing. It will highlight the healing power of the Eucharist through the powerful intercession of the Blessed Mother. There will be healing talks and sessions and a special Mass to be celebrated by Fr. Orbos himself.

The cleric from Pangasinan said the Day of Healing aims to convince Filipinos to return to the basics.

"We need to ask ourselves where are our values? And we all have to consciously choose to go back to the truth and righteousness, to affirm the message that goodness pays and crime does not. We have to go back to the Lord and say we have disobeyed you and we want your help to set things right again in our lives," Fr. Orbos said.

True healing

The missionary said that true healing takes place only after forgiveness and reconciliation. He observed that the nation is torn by political divisions and economic problems, which have left many feeling an oppressive sense of hopelessness.

"We have a people that are basically good," Orbos said. "We are also rich in natural and human resources. *Kaya lang* we are quite a mismanaged people and a mismanaged nation. We are also not very fortunate with leaders. There is too much politicking going on and it is tearing us apart. That is why in this Day of Healing, we hope to heal not only physical and emotional ailments, but also the healing of our nation and its leaders."

Fr. Orbos said that true healing begins with reconciliation with self, others and God. He noted that one must first be able to forgive oneself for mistakes in the past while striving hard to rectify them. He stressed the need for people to forgive one another and reconcile their differences in order to move forward. And finally, one must recognize a greater power that can intercede and help the country and its people through these difficult times.

"We need to recognize the healing power of God in our lives," Fr. Orbos said. "We need him to show us what is happening around us and that there is a bigger picture, a bigger agenda, a bigger mission than our own petty agendas. Thus in order for us to be healed, we need to reconcile with God, through prayer. And in our quest to reach out to Jesus, we also receive the loving grace of Mother Mary, our mother and intercessor, who will work in her own way to lead us to her son."

The good Father also stressed that the most powerful form of healing is the one that occurs through the Eucharist, because it flows from Jesus who is the greatest healer of all. He also noted that the title "Healing Mass" is a redundancy because every Mass involves the healing power of the Eucharist.

Famed visionary

Famed visionary Julia Kim, who heals by taking into her being the ailments of others and offering it to God, will join Father Orbos on the Day of Healing.

Among the healing stories about Julia Kim that Fr. Orbos related involved a small healing Mass here in Manila, where one architect's skin disease suddenly disappeared. Unknown to many but Fr. Orbos and a few close friends, Julia had earlier experienced intense itchiness all over her body.

The Day of Healing, however, will not only focus on spiritual and physical healing, but also healing of self, relationships and family. Among those who will join Julia and Fr. Orbos are Kerygma preachers Brother Mike Joseph, Arun Gogna, Jon Escoto, Alvin Barcelona, Obet Cabrillas and Adrian Panganiban; representatives of the Philippine Catholic Church, including Fr. Arnie Boehme, Fr. Eric Santos and Sr. Teresing of Lipa; and other pilgrims from Korea who have been touched by Julia.

When asked what he envisioned the greatest healing miracle for that day would be, Father Orbos replied, "That everyone who will be there will go home assured that there is a God who is in control, who loves us and helps us solve all our problems. And that we are not alone because we are all brothers and sisters!"

For more on the Day of Healing, call 4147044/7217457.

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He makes her feel 23 again

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

DEAR Emily,

Life was perfectly smooth and comfortable eight years ago. My husband was the breadwinner and I was a stay-at-home mom—until that fateful night when I discovered my husband was having an affair.

However painful, I accepted his apologies and made no fuss about it. He ended the affair and we moved on with our lives. But he lost his job because of rumors and I was forced to work again.

In my job, I accidentally revived communication with someone very close to my heart. The place where I work is a sister company of where he works. I called to make inquiries and he answered the phone. After that he began to call regularly about both official and personal matters.

He was an old office mate and since I lost touch with many of my friends, this guy included, I felt he was just picking up the pieces of our interrupted friendship.

Things changed when both our spouses left to work abroad. He found the guts to ask me out. I refused at first, knowing we might be tempted to go beyond the bounds of friendship because of loneliness. But after two invitations, I ran out of excuses.

I admit I was curious to know if the "spark" was still there from when we first met.

Unfortunately, the connection is still there. We are still attracted to each other.

But I considered those "dates" harmless. We just reminisced and updated each other on the lives of our old friends. And we would end with a customary *beso-beso*.

Lately though, he calls me "honey" in his daily e-mail, which flatters me very much. I'd also catch him giving me those long, "sticky" stares when we are out together. He confessed he really liked me since we first met, but I was seeing someone else and he was already engaged.

I know the sensible thing to do is to cut off all forms of communication with him. I know also how rotten it is that, while my husband is sacrificing so much to give us a comfortable life, here I am thinking of someone else.

My husband has reformed after that messy affair and he makes me feel loved even though he's away.

But this other guy is making me feel 23 again—young, pretty and alive.

Can a girl just have some fun minus the guilt?

MS NICE NO MORE

There's nothing so fantastically flattering than for a married woman to be wooed and made to feel 23 again by a long-lost beau. Who wouldn't feel giddy and think sexy thoughts? I'd even say chuck your husband, if he had not changed his philandering ways.

But he has changed—and has even gone abroad to give you and your kids a better life. You said yourself he made you feel loved.

Now that the cat is away, aren't you just being the mouse that wants to play? Isn't this guy being a cad, taking advantage of his wife's absence as well?

You are two consenting adults planning to play house. Seems like you're ready, set and about to go, to do something—regardless.

Are you prepared for the consequences in the event you two push through with whatever you want to push through? You know, of course, this may jeopardize your families' unity. For a few moments of indiscretion you lose everything if your husband and his wife find out.

Just remember that walls have ears, and a thousand invisible eyes are connected to sword-like tongues—north, east, west and south of you—ready to cut down and wreak havoc on all your romantic notions.

But, it's a free country and you're a big girl now. You can do anything your heart desires. Just be warned that this married guy, whose wife is enduring being separated from her family to give him a better life, can do the same to you once he has sated his whimsy.

If you are already feeling guilty before you have even begun this affair, it does not sound good at all. Your conscience knows best and it already knows something you don't. Listen to it, and listen to it well. It's only you who can hear the voice of this conscience—therefore, it's only you who can make the choice. If it doesn't feel good, it probably isn't right. Sad fact about conscience is you carry it everywhere you go.

Is he really worth it?

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday- Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

FR. CECIL Datar, as a young parish priest in Sorsogon in 1995, asked Edmundo Kaimo and friends to help priests in poor parishes set up livelihood programs to help both church and parishioners.

Helping A Needy Diocesan Servant (HANDS) Foundation was set up that same year, giving soft loans in the dioceses of Gumaca, Quezon; Sorsogon and Catanduanes.

In 10 years, HANDS has helped 27 parishes. It also helps during calamities.

To mark its 10th anniversary, Joe Mari Chan is holding a fund-raising concert at 6 p.m., Sept. 19, at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club. The concert will begin with a Thanksgiving Mass.

Call 7241701 or text 0918-5643203. Board members Tito Antonio, Cora Antonio, Dulce Barretto, Lorena Cipriano, Edmundo Kaimo, Babot Oreta, Marianne Pimentel and Minda Palumbarit are also selling tickets.

Vision

Fr. Datar, executive director, said: "The...objective is to inculcate in (people)...the idea and awareness that they have...to look after the welfare and well-being of their priests...pastors are not ordinary paid workers...but men set apart, consecrated for the exclusive service of God's people, the Church.

"They need our support...our help in preserving their priesthood."

Children's libraries

Pianists Mary Ann Armovit, Della G. Besa, Annie de Guzman and Raul M. Sunicol gave a concert recently, "Quadrille," at the Francisco Santiago Hall to raise funds for schools in Infanta, Quezon, whose libraries were destroyed in the disastrous floods and landslides in 2004.

An initiative of the Notre Dame de Vie Secular Institute, it was supported by Equitable PCI Bank Foundation in NCO Foundation.

Concert

The San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish in Talisay, Negros, marks its Quadricentennial on Sept. 9 with a concert inside the church. Pianist Leonor Kilayko will play "Missa Solonnelle." Invited singers are sopranos Deeda Barretto and Ma. Ena Aldecoa; altos Agnes Barredo and Vicky Achacoso; tenors Armin Comon and Ivinn Kintanar; and basses Lionel Guico and Emmanuel Miranda. Miguel Castro will play the harmonica.

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Since I moved into my apartment 14 years ago, Our Lady of Guadalupe has always been my protector. Her icon, a gift from Msgr. Josefino Ramirez, hangs in my living room.

I have prayed to be able to visit Guadalupe, Mexico. Now I am joining a group of pilgrims headed by Msgr. Jerome Reyes leaving on Oct. 16.

Mamerto Banatin of Adam's Travel said it was amazing to see men and women, with their children, walking on their knees to the Basilica and Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe.

At the main altar hangs the *tilma* on which the face of the Virgin was painted by a miraculous power. To join the trip, text 0915-5514468 or call 5211651.

Peñafrancia Masses

Devotees of Our Lady of Peñafrancia in Metro Manila will hold a Triduum of Masses at 6 p.m., Sept. 8-10, at the St. Andrew Church in Bel Air. Fluvial pro-

Joe Mari Chan sings for Hands

cession from Mandaluyong to Jones Bridge is at 2:30 p.m., Sept. 11. A High Mass will follow at the Manila Cathedral at 6 p.m.

The fiesta in Naga is on Sept. 17, when the fluvial procession takes place. On Sept. 18, fiesta Masses will be held at the Basilica de Peñafrancia.

Home

On Maytubig St., Malate, is a home for the sick or alone old Spanish ladies. *Hogar de Beneficiencios* (home of the needy) has a chapel where nuns and residents hear Mass.

They welcome donations of rice, canned goods or anything useful and they can have them picked up. Just text 0917-8452957.

San Lorenzo Ruiz church

The first church dedicated to San Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila in Bulacan is located in San Jose town. The church is full on Tuesdays when Fr. Mario José Ladra holds a healing Mass at 7:30 p.m.

Fr. Mario told me mostly migrant workers go to the church to pray for visas and for jobs. The new church is preparing for its nine-day novena Masses at 7 p.m., Sept. 16-24. Fiesta is on Sept. 25 with the Bishop's Mass at 10 a.m.

Fr. Mario encourages overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) to pray to San Lorenzo whom he calls the "patron of migrants" and "*santong madaling lapitan.*" For prayer cards, please write me at PO Box 2050, Manila. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

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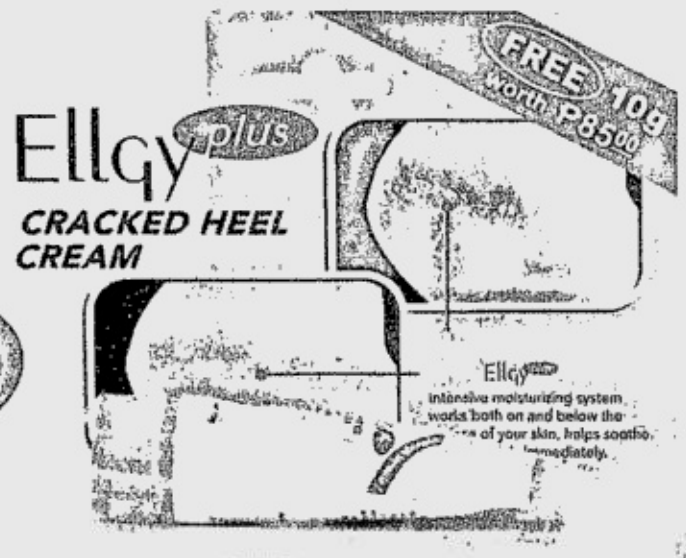

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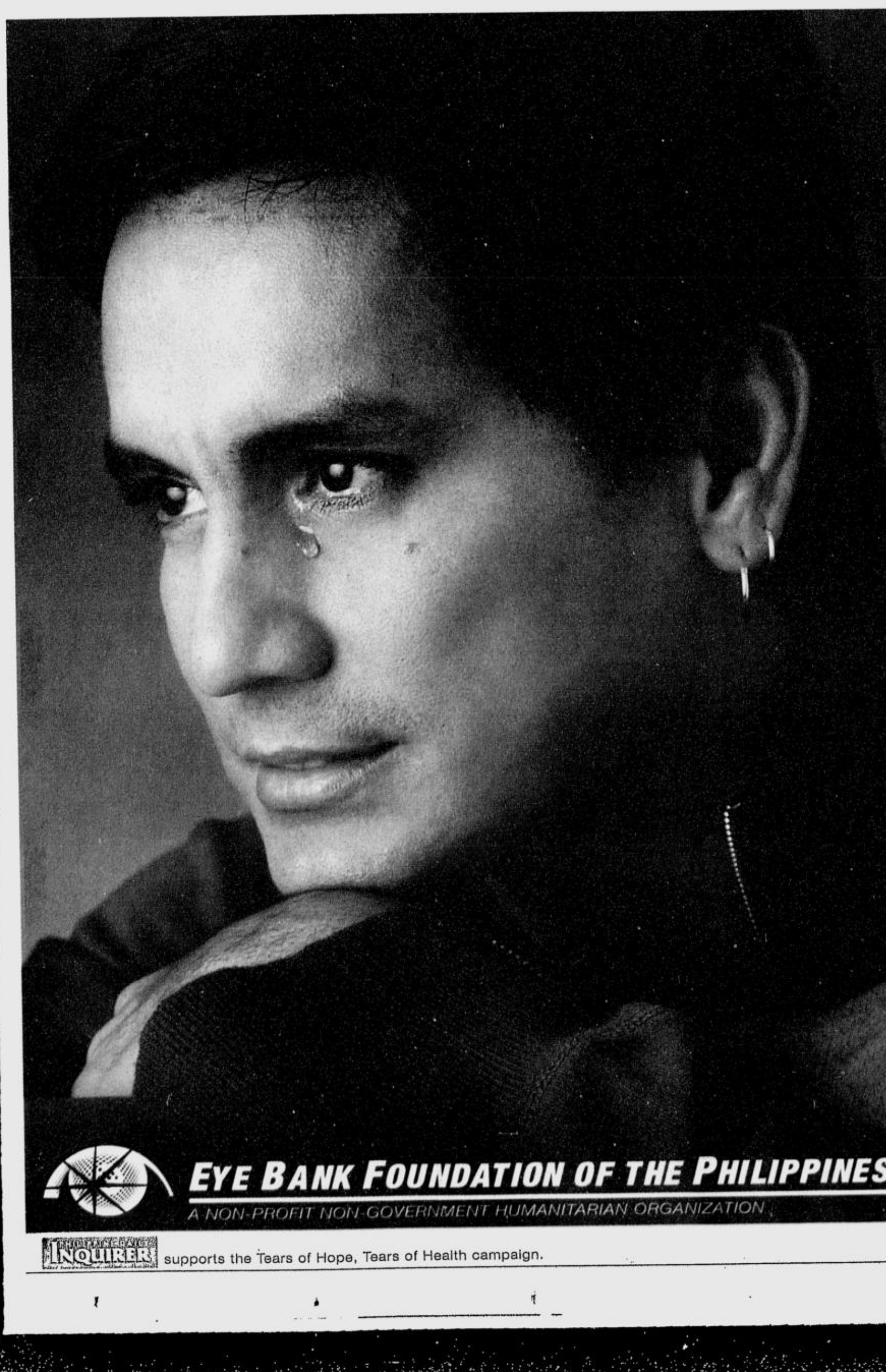

Tears?

Man's triumph. Richard is in awe when he witnesses or is in a victorious moment. In that one instant, all the hard work, discipline and preparation come into perfect harmony. It is an athlete's joy that only compares with the first time he held his newborn daughter and she looked in his direction as he said her name. For Richard, in those moments man is at his best.

Doing his share in a battle for our fellowmen, Richard has pledged to donate his eyes and join the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign of the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines (EBFP), a non-profit humanitarian organization committed to alleviating corneal blindness in Filipinos, and Visine Refresh, a tears substitute. On its tenth year, EBFP keeps the hope of restored sight alive by making corneal transplant surgery accessible to all, and prevents more unnecessary blindness by educating the public on the importance of healthy eyes.

In line with this campaign, each purchase of Visine Refresh will mean a donation to the EBFP in support of its fight against corneal blindness.

You, too, can help the EBFP by donating cash, or signing on as a cornea or eye donor. Join Richard, Visine Refresh and the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines in the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign, and ensure that our fellow Filipinos see a bright future ahead.

For additional information,
please call (632) 893.5995
email eyebank1@ultimate.info.com.ph

Richard Gomez
Actor

Photography: Jun de Leon

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TENCHAVEZ-ATILANO NUPTIALS

First impression doesn't always count

Though the would-be groom had a less than sterling performance on the first date, true love triumphs in the end

NEWLYWEDS Bobby and Anna Tenchavez nee Atilano

PARTYING grandmothers Nena Tenchavez, Cely Basa and Naty Reyes

By Maurice Arcache
Photos by Alex Van Hagen

IT LOOKED like it would rain forever. But after three straight days of rains, the skies suddenly became clear and beautiful on the fourth day, absolutely perfect for popular businessman Bobby Tenchavez and attractive Anna Atilano to say their "I dos" at the quaint San Roque chapel in Subic Bay Freeport.

The sun was shining that gorgeous Saturday afternoon when members of the couple's *familles* and close pals jetted in from as far away as Madrid, California and Toronto. They packed the picturesque church of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority that was filled with super eye-catching arrangements of tents and white roses by Robert Blancaflor.

The radiant Anna was at her best in a silver chantilly lace, as she walked down the aisle with her super dashing dad, businessman Aton Atilano. The bride's mom, ultra glam beauty, Tessa Reyes, who was *tres* chic in a pastel pink gown and a diamond-studded necklace, watched teary-eyed from the sidelines. She looked more like her daughter's sister.

Bobby is the first son of low-profile mega businessman entrepreneur, Bob Tenchavez, and that Castilian beauty, Betsy Basa, who looked fab in her stylish red magenta gown by Rajo Laurel with a necklace dripping with rubies and chandelier earrings. The groom, handsome in his JC Buendia barong Tagalog, is a cum laude graduate of Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester, United States. He now manages BT&T Telecom Corp.

Anna, the eldest daughter of Aton and Tessa Atilano, graduated cum laude from the University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P). She works at the Peruvian Consulate.

The love affair began seven years ago at UA&P, *palanggas*. Bobby asked matchmaker Ria Limjoco to set up for him a date with Anna. Unfortunately, on that first date, Bobby had a little too much booze, which sometimes happen when he is extremely happy. Anna, a bit disappointed, went home on her own, ahead of him.

Bobby thought that it was it. He had lost her!

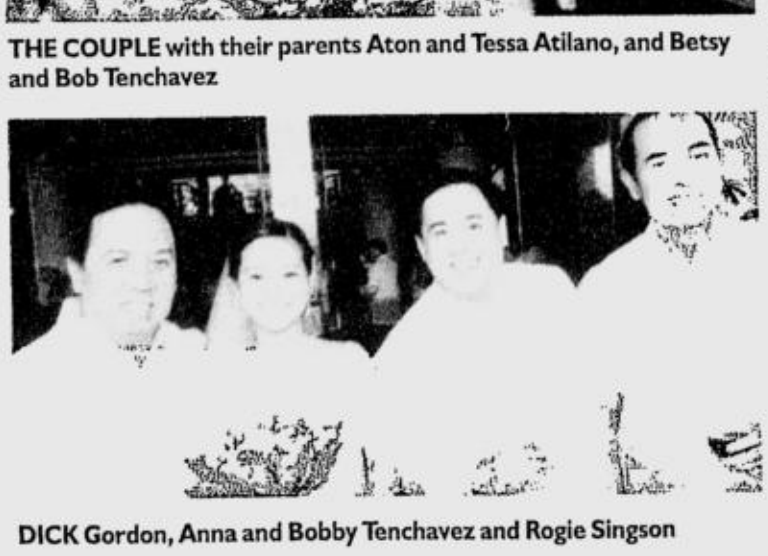
But a week later, he tried and asked her out again. To his surprise, she said "Yes."

The rest was romantic history culminating in an intimate and *tres* elegant wedding, *palanggas*.

Later, a fabulous cocktail reception was held at the boardwalk of the chi-chi Subic Bay Yacht Club. Fresh strawberry and fresh red watermelon bellinis were served with yummy hors d'oeuvres. Cool saxophone

FIRST/ E2

THE COUPLE with their parents Aton and Tessa Atilano, and Betsy and Bob Tenchavez



DICK Gordon, Anna and Bobby Tenchavez and Rogie Singson

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DANGCA-TORREJOS

Germaine G. Dangca, son of **Gerardo** and **Amelia Dangca**, married **Anna Loraine Torrejos**, daughter of **Rolando** and **Josephine Lacap**, on July 2 at the Fatima Church, Las Piñas. Reception followed at the Philam Social Hall, Philam Village, Las Piñas.

MANIAGO-BAJA

Julius Emmanuel Maniago, son of **Emmanuel** and **Remedios Maniago** of Sydney, Australia, will wed **Manna Risa Baja**, daughter of **Alfredo** and **Dothy Baja** of San Pedro, Laguna, on Sept. 30, 4:30 p.m. Reception will follow at Fernwood Gardens in Quezon City.

The gowns of the bride and entourage were designed by **Joel Bautista**.

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.

NAVARRO-DANGCA

Bryan Enriquez Navarro, son of **Honofre** (deceased) and **Gloria Navarro**, married **Gemelli Gomez Dangca**, daughter of **Gerardo** and **Amelia Dangca**, recently at the St. Joseph Parish-Bamboo Organ, Las Piñas. The ceremony was solemnized by Fr. **Enrico Salazar**. Reception followed at the Ecotrend Garden, Ecotrend Villa.

The bride's gown and the groom's *barong* were made by **Anita Lorenzo**.

ALVARADO-RIVERA

Portia Rivera, daughter of Mr. and Ms. **Tony L. Rivera** of Garden Grove, California, will marry **Erick Alvarado**, son of **Zoila Alvarado** of New York City, on Nov. 12. The bride-to-be graduated cum laude with a degree in English from Lake Forest College and BS in Nursing from Creighton University. She is a pediatric nurse. The groom-to-be graduated with a BS in Engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and MS in Engineering from the University of Michigan. He is an electrical engineer in San Jose, California.

WITH the principal sponsors Helen Osias, Dolly Galang, Apples Meer, Kate Gordon, Ceci Cruz, Paquito Tanjangco, Paeng Atilano, Gerry Reyes, Mon Garcia and Andy Andres

First impression . . .

From page E1

sounds from Vince Lahora set a romantic mood as the invitees circulated while watching the fantastic sunset.

At dusk, the invitees moved to the Yacht Club's mezzanine, transformed into a dazzling paradise with exquisite peonies, tulips and roses. Huge white lantern balls hanged from the high ceiling.

A superb dinner buffet followed, dahlings, with the Meat Plus rib eye roast taking center stage. Prepared by Baba Ibazeta, it also featured sinfully calorific desserts and a cheese buffet. Superb Australian wine, cava and more bellinis overflowed, *palanggas*, keeping the chic set rocking to the music of Anna's father's band, The Mobb!

Happiest of all was the groom who, as his close pals expected, had a little too much to drink again. He led the guests in partying all night long.

Now, who was there? Senator par excellence "Wow" Dick Gordon and adorable wife, Kate; Abe Licaros and his wife, super headturning civic-minded lady, Nini Licaros; Mon and Justa Tantoco, who watched their favorite son-in-law, Paeng Atilano, stand as godfather; Mon and Maryjo Garcia; North Park dancer extraordinaire, Raphael Soon; PAL EVP Bong Cruz and Ceci, Dolly and Bobby Galang; dancing king Raffy Ramirez and Bella; PATTS chair, Amboy, and president, Nini Valdez; Paquito and Pinky Tanjangco; BCDA president Rogie Singson and Binggay; tiger lady Helen Osias; Alex and Pat Evangelista; super lawyer Spanky and Apples Meer; CCP School founders Babes and Lenny Reyes; Globe CEO Chito Gonzalez and Nanie; Toyota's Cris Oben and Nette; Loy and Loudette Tolosa; Manoling and Ina Dizon; Norb and Chickie Garrett; banker Archit and Nenne Bartolome; UCPB stock brokerage president Louie Basa and Vicky; CRYO president Via Lorenzo and Lylette; exporter Tony Venezuela and Liz; SBMA deputy director Noni Zialcita and Cristy; SBMA administrator's wife, Cora Antonio; Doctors Clare and Efren Palabyab; Manila Jaycees president Jing Carlos and Honey; Don and Rosa Liamzon; Bobby Ancheta; Roldan Capito; MM and Annabeck Morales; Carlos Lorensana; Dizon twins, Randy and Rodney; Koichi Togezaki; Dee Dee Tongco; Ace Eubanas; and UFC Heinz Catsup king Gerry Reyes and Nani. Talk about a full house, dahlings.

Before the invitees could bat an eyelash, the lovebirds flew the coop to start the getting-to-know-you-better with just "the two of us," Bobby said with a naughty, boyish smile.

To the new Mr. and Ms. Bobby Tenchavez, here's wishing you the best in your new world of togetherness.

Cheers, *palanggas*!

FUNKY future brides Aisa Atilano, Bernice and Berry Tenchavez, Rosa Laurel, Dee Dee Tongco, Ria Limjoco, Lui Tenchavez and Niña Atilano

WITH their entourage: Bernice, Berry, Lui Tenchavez, Guia, Niña, Aisa, Gabbie, Keena, Bea Atilano, Natasha Reyes, Boom, Butz Tenchavez, Richard Tenchavez, Budu Atilano and Ricky Andres

ABE and Nini Licaros

JESSICA, Maryjo, Mon and Janina Garcia

WITH the bride's famille: Caloy and Laurie, Guia, mom Tessa, Aton, Budu, Niña and Aisa, flower girls Bea and Gabbie Atilano

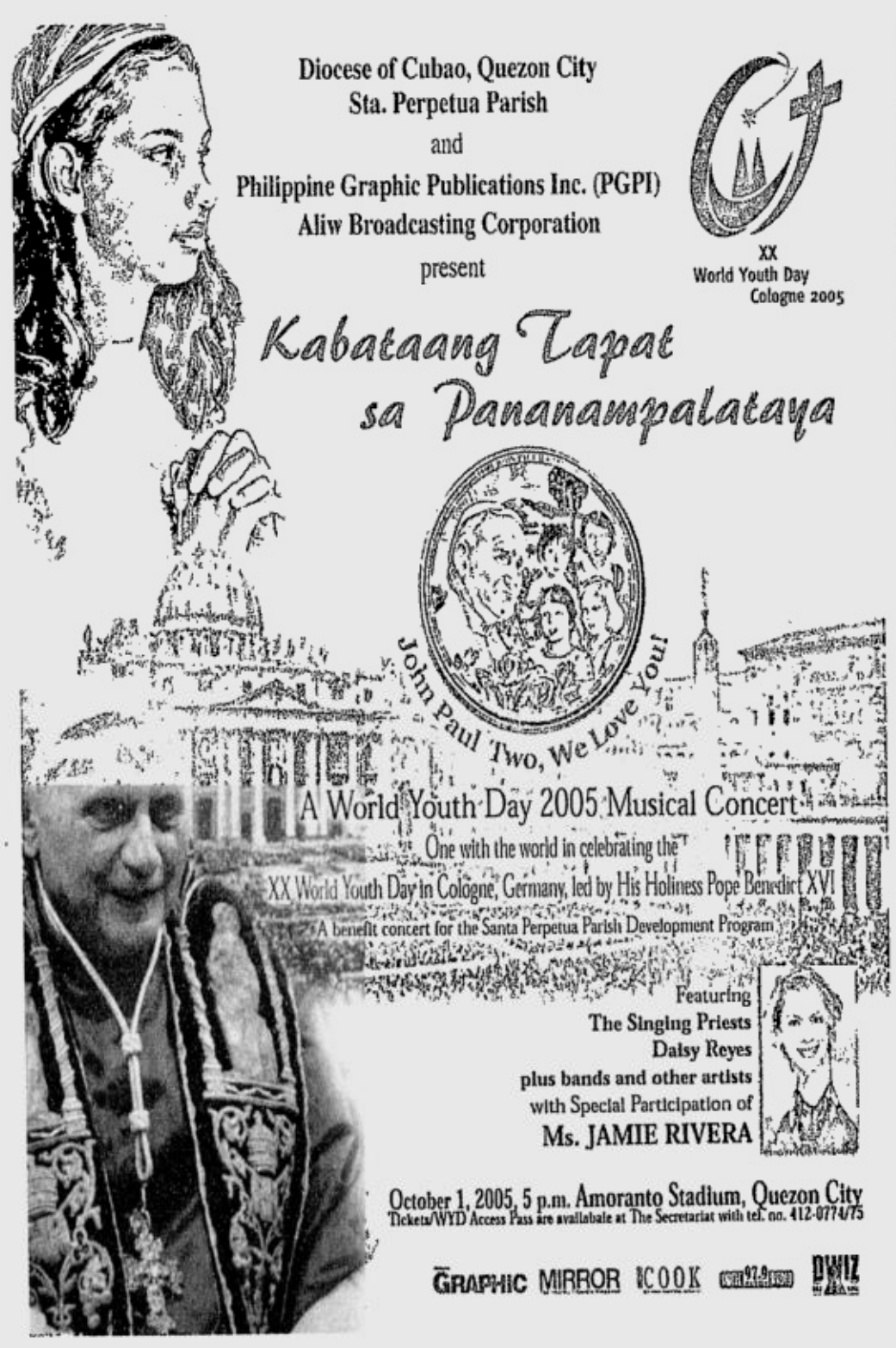
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

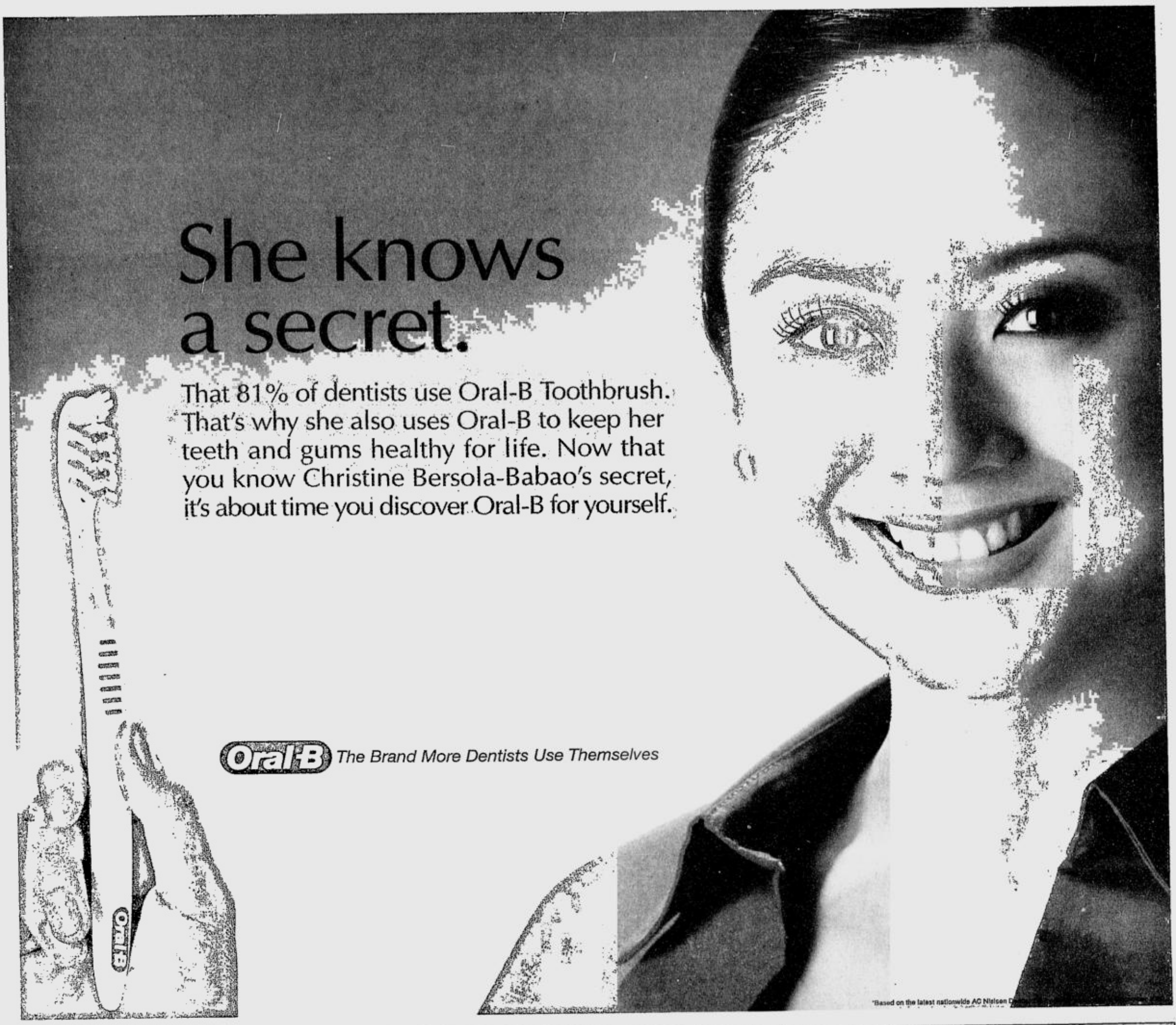
PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — **B MOVIES**

ACROSS
1 Beat badly
6 Processes grain in a mill
12 Juan's house
16 Bummed out
19 Choice words
20 In great demand
21 Word on U.S. coins
22 Noah's per-species limit
23 1993 Stephen Rea/Sinead Cusack comedy
25 1987 Diane Keaton comedy
27 Audiophiles' systems
28 Sit-in, e.g.
30 Book after Mark
31 Big tooth
32 Mac alternatives
34 Pioneered
35 Pontificated
37 1990 Alfre Woodard drama
39 Suffix with pay or plug
40 Portable MP3 player
41 Ambiance
42 Itty-bitty
43 1964 Frankie Avalon/ Annette Funicello musical comedy
48 Assorted things: Abbr.
50 Idea
52 Defensive spray
53 "Guess —?"
54 Go — flames
57 Roman army divisions
59 "Kapow!"
60 1988 Bette Midler/Lily Tomlin comedy
65 Mole
66 Jazz singer Cleo
67 Wayward
68 Female gametes
69 Sport- —
70 Keg
71 High times?
72 Health facility
73 1960 Clint Eastwod comedy
75 "Do — others ..."
76 Activates
78 It may be long-stemmed
79 Ran into
80 Kojak's first name
81 Mexican inn
84 Freeway access
88 2003 animated Disney film
91 Rock producer Eno
94 Fair grade
95 Edges
96 Horace's "— poetica"
97 1998 Randy Quaid horror/ comedy
99 Make less dangerous
102 Suffix with Brooklyn
103 Jelly relative
104 Pat down
105 Insidious
106 Mailing fee
109 Canvas supporter
110 1993 John Carpenter horror anthology
112 2005 Christian Bale action film
117 Prez after Harry
118 Writer — Stanley Gardner
119 Ceremonial prayer
120 Type in again
121 Business card abbr.
122 Scratches (out)
123 And others, to Ovid
124 Tons

DOWN
1 Bar bill
2 Cellular strand
3 A night owl keeps them
4 Not stuck in one spot
5 Factory-cut homes
6 Pate de foie —
7 Cause to go "vroom"
8 Amin of infamy
9 Hits the mall
10 Guided outing
11 Sauntering
12 Diced
13 Santa — (desert winds)
14 Secondary subjects
15 Golfer Alcott
16 Thickset
17 Stopped snoozing
18 Having a rounded roof
24 College near Cleveland
26 Knife
29 Wood for a deck
31 Nero's 1,052
32 Game on horseback
33 Extremist sect
36 Choir attire
37 Comic thud
38 New Age pianist-composer
39 English horns' cousins
40 — way, shape, or form
44 Potential ball receiver's shout
45 Spinning
46 Coco of fashion
47 Far from beautiful
49 Havana resident, in Havana
51 Ingrid's "Casablanca" role
55 Bits of wordplay
56 Guitar add-on?
58 "That's all there — it"
59 More cautious
60 Deaden
61 One decreasing
62 Cavern
63 "Piece of cake"
64 Novelist Hunter
66 Experiment locales
69 Samovars
70 Scare word
72 Plaintiffs
73 Yahoos
74 Jenny of weight loss
76 Disneyland, e.g.
77 Like surplus resources
80 "— can't be!"
82 "Dancing Queen" group
83 Tom-tom, e.g.
85 Imitates
86 Timorous
87 Pay- — -view
89 Genuinely
90 The right direction?
92 Hit BBC comedy, briefly
93 Baby bottles, e.g.
98 Mobster Bugsy
99 Entry in red
100 Bring to mind
101 Mr. Castro
102 Twisty curves
103 Volkswagen model
107 Gawk at
108 Way of walking
109 New Age superstar
111 Nectar nosher
113 Prefix with practice
114 Darth's real name, briefly
115 Just-bought
116 Pt. of CBS

answer on page F4





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- Integrated 10/100 LAN
- Integrated 802.11b/g WLAN with Bluetooth
- Integrated 6-in-1 digital memory reader slot
- Battery 6-cell Li-ion
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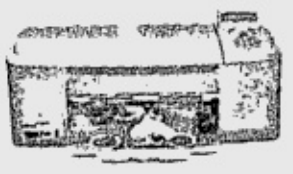

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Ortigas' largest events venue has state-of-the-art facilities

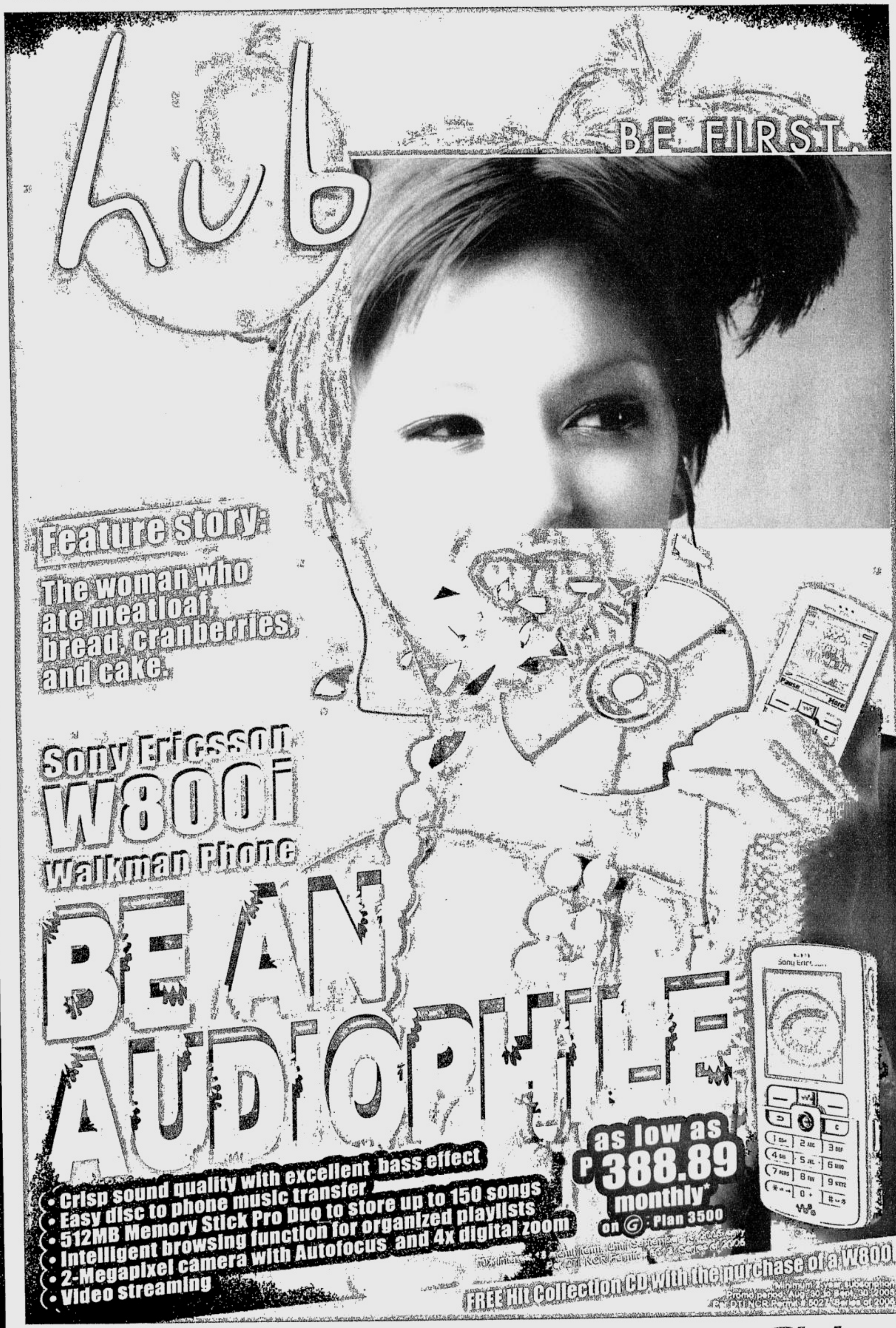
CROWNE Plaza Hotel's Grand Ballroom is Ortigas' newest and largest venue for large-scale business and social events.

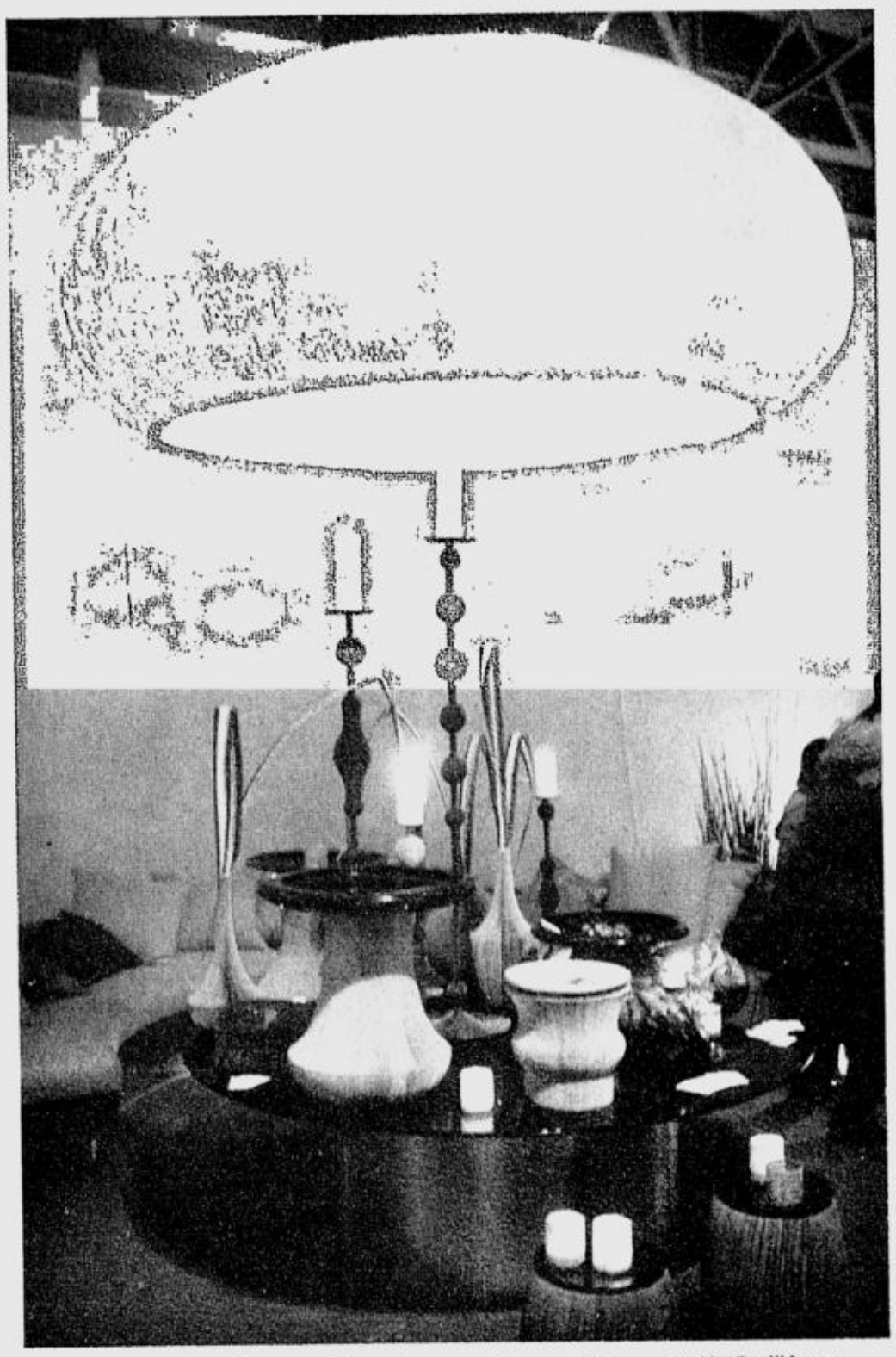
The high-ceilinged 1,272- sq-m ballroom can accommodate up to 1,500 people. It has 48 Austrian crystal chandeliers and state-of-the-art lighting that can change from the brightness of day to the soft glow of dusk, or produce the colors of the rainbow. Cove lighting can mix up to 65,536 colors to create whatever mood is desired.

The Crowne Plaza Galleria's Grand Ballroom can be adjusted for any kind of event—from the most intimate to the grandest—with its imported partitions, the high-end Dorma Huppe from Germany with heavy-duty mechanisms and tracks.

The venue is acoustically designed to match the standards of modern cinemas.

It also has drop-down, motorized video screens and professional audio-video data equipment, sound reinforcements, almost complete stage lighting facilities such as dimmers and consoles DMX controllers, par lighting, colored soft gels, a complete camera system and a colored touch panel which can control almost all the facilities and equipment.





SOME of the works of Movement 8 members as gathered and interpreted by Budji Layug

EXPENSIVE chairs by known Japanese and European designers become mere backdrops to Joey Yupangco's (inset) twisting foam-board installation.

Lounges like no other

Filipino designers manage to turn a supposedly mundane activity as chilling out into an art form

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Joseph Agcaoili

IT WAS one hot party in more ways than one as the country's top names in architecture, furniture and interior design recently came up with their respective interpretations of a "lounge."

Manila's A-list crowd seemed oblivious to the heat at MC Home Depot (did the AC conk out that night or was there one at all?) as they marveled at installations and/or showcases set up by the likes of Ito Kish, Joey Yupangco, Dan Lichauco, Chito Vijandre, Ricky Toledo, J. Antonio Mendoza and members of Movement 8 led by Budji Layug.

A total party it was as only people behind Metro Home & Entertaining, led by Thelma San Juan and Carlo Tadiar, could think of. Organizers also tapped some of the country's leading chefs such as Bambi Sy-Gobio, Anthony Yupangco, Philip Golding, Ed Quimson, Carlo Miguel and Anton Miguel to provide the evening's food.

The featured chefs didn't whip up the usual cocktail selections, but instead prepared mini dishes designed to complement each setup. Sy-Gobio, for instance, garnished her offerings with such clear ingredients as gelatin and mini tapioca to echo Lichauco's living room showcase consisting mostly of glass pieces.

In keeping with their idea of a French bordello, Toledo and Vijandre asked Sy-Gobio to prepare chocolate goodies in such naughty shapes as lips and various parts of the human anatomy.

Radical approaches

Two schools of thought guided the designers. While Layug and Lichauco went for more conventional interpretations of a lounge, Kish, Yupangco, Toledo and Vijandre opted for radical approaches that were more like installations.

Kish did away with the usual lounge chairs and went for an eight-foot-tall metal cylinder that echoed his idea of a garden. Slabs of greenish brown slate doubled as garden floor.

Lit from the inside, the giant

LOUNGES/F2

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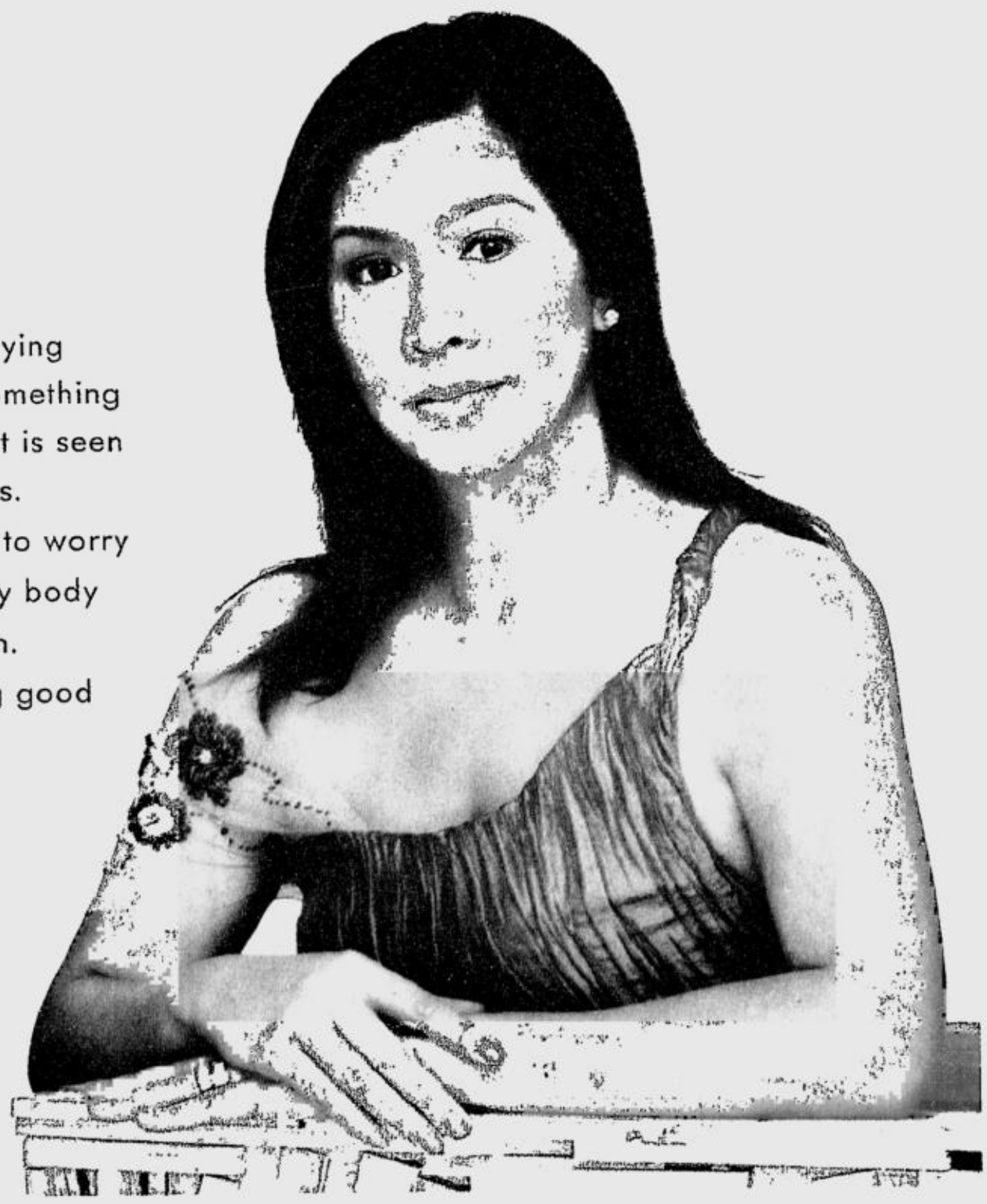


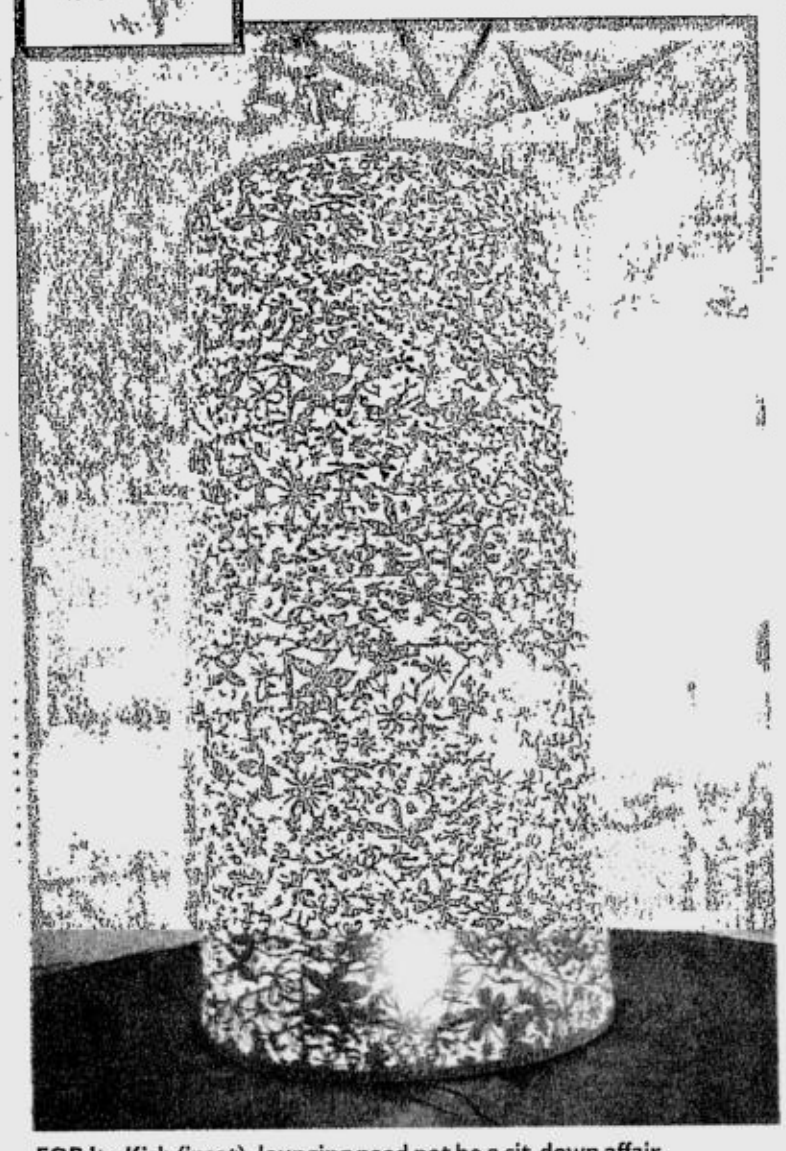
DAN Lichauco (inset) and his glass living-room showcase

Lounges like no other

From page F1

cutout cylinder (now on display at Kish home store in Greenbelt 3) gave off various shapes of flora and fauna that landed on makeshift white walls and the ceiling. A play of yellow light and shadows contrasted with the stark-white installation.

"I didn't use real plants and animals," Kish, top honcho of Gallano Design, said. "I purposely tweaked traditional expectations of what an outdoor lounge is."



FOR Ito Kish (inset), lounging need not be a sit-down affair. The eight-foot-tall cylinder is actually a metal cutout.

Main attraction

Unlike Kish, Yupangco made use of several chairs designed by leading Japanese and European designers. But these pricey elements became mere backdrops to the installation's main attraction: a meandering sculpture made of white foam board that started from the floor before twisting and wrapping itself around each chair.

"My reference point is a chair designed by a Swiss architect," said Yupangco. "I decided to do a combination of chairs, and since each chair has a different height, your orientation also changes."

Lichauco, managing director of Archion, went for a living room showcase featuring a sofa and several armchairs made of thick and even slabs of glass. To give the setup some contrast, he made use of soft, fuzzy seats. In lieu of vases, he opted for upright glass stands dotted with white roses.

Vijandre and Toledo of Firma fused old and new elements to come up with their version of an 18th-century Parisian bordello. It was a virtual flesh-and-blood exhibit, as scenes from a boudoir competed with two models —a male and female—sitting provocatively on a pair of chairs.

"We did this is all in the spirit of fun," said Vijandre. "The furniture pieces are all second-hand, which we had reupholstered. We weren't required to get stuff from our stores."

The live mannequins weren't naked, thank goodness, but were garbed in fitted outfits by Joey Samson. Erotic prints from the pair's books found their way on giant tarpaulin sheets, while a series of disco balls in different sizes dangled from the ceiling and added a touch of kitsch to the entire scene.

They even poked fun at some characters featured in the prints. Instead of leaving the figures' genitalia and other acts of the flesh exposed, the pair decided to cover them with circular tarpaulin patches.

"It's a fusion of periods," said Toledo. "We love Baroque, and it happens to go well with bordello."

Best pieces

Layug and the rest of Movement 8, which includes Tess Pasola, Milo Naval, Tony Gonzales and Al Caronan, among others, took the event as a chance to showcase some of their best pieces. The group had the biggest space, which wisely doubled as the party's bar area.

CHITO Vijandre and Ricky Toledo with two models in their idea of a French bordello with a contemporary twist

The idea of creating a club in an industrial setting reportedly came from the award-winning Layug, who worked with fellow designers to create a modern yet distinctly Filipino lounge featuring the group's streamlined furniture and accent pieces fashioned mostly from indigenous materials.

Pasola's mammoth and dome-like paper-and-wire chandelier glowed from the ceiling like an iridescent sea urchin. Snaking underneath it was Naval's S-shaped sofa on a bed of woven palm bark, while Gonzales' award-winning Genie chairs were scattered throughout the space. Caronan's fiberglass planter was converted into a giant ice bucket for a selection of white wine.

And where did the seemingly aloof Layug fit into all these?

"We have many designers," he said. "Aside from making the most out of the space, I had to feature each designer's work and incorporate it to form part of the setup. This [setup] is me."

The AC may have underperformed, but definitely not these designers, who managed to turn a supposedly mundane activity as chilling out into an art form.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

BUDJI Layug (in white shirt and glasses) and Movement 8 fellow members

New lifestyle center opens in Ortigas

"URBAN Contemporary Setting" by Celynn Imperial

AUTOMATIC Centre and Blims Fine Furniture have opened a lifestyle store at the Ortigas Home Depot, the flagship retail center of the sprawling Ortigas Town Centre at the corner of Meralco and Julia Vargas Avenues.

The new store is the biggest branch to date of the two establishments that will share a 2,000-square-meter space. It will carry a complete range of appliance and electronic items, and furniture and accessories for every room in a house.

The Lifestyle Center's formal opening featured the latest designs in urban lifestyles of members of the Philippine Institute of Interior Designers (PIID) led by Belen Morey.

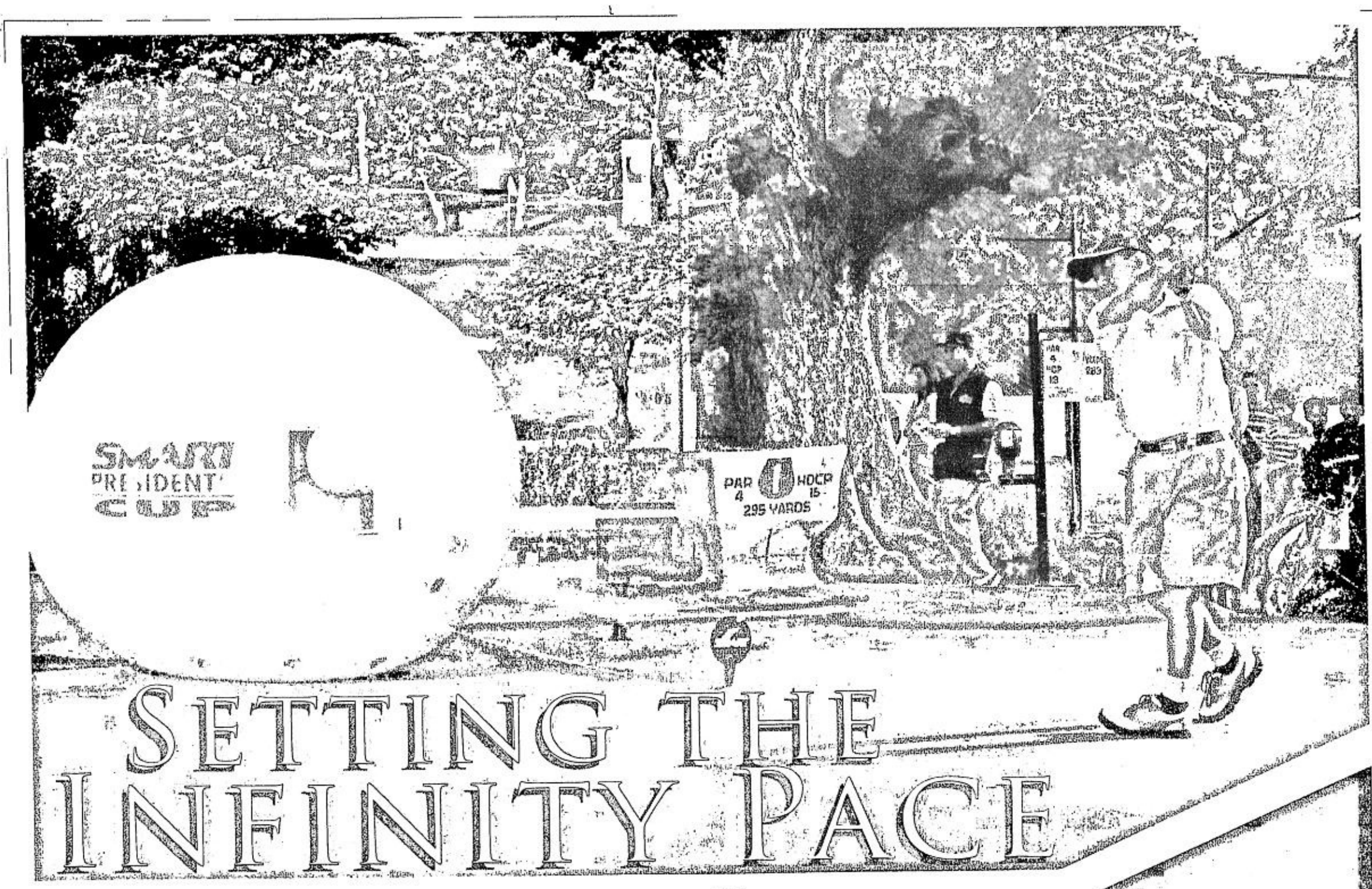
The Blims side showcases contemporary designs for six condominium units, one bedroom and study. The Automatic Centre side highlights kitchen showcase.

Designers Marcelo Alonzo, Necita Cheng, Leah Chua, Toni Gabriel, Dottie Gosingco, Lot Hilvano, Celynn Imperial, Gelin Kuizon, Julie Ann de Lara, Ludette Mercado, Jane de la Paz and Emma Viray used various furniture pieces like artwork. The exhibit was undertaken with the support and cooperation of Builder's Choice, Inc.; Living 'n Style; Wall Crown Design Center; Kitani Glassworks; Elite Arts; Kingdom Frames and Cabinet Specialists.

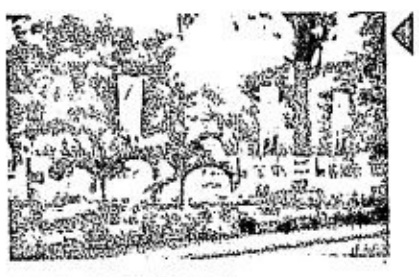
The new lifestyle center also offers interior design consultancy with PIID members through Blims Interior Design Clinic.

"MODERN Kitchen" by interior designer Toni Gabriel

The center will also have an art gallery for the Saturday Group featuring, among others, the artworks of Malang. Also to be featured are the works of Buds Convocar, Anna de Leon, Cris Cruz and other visual artists.



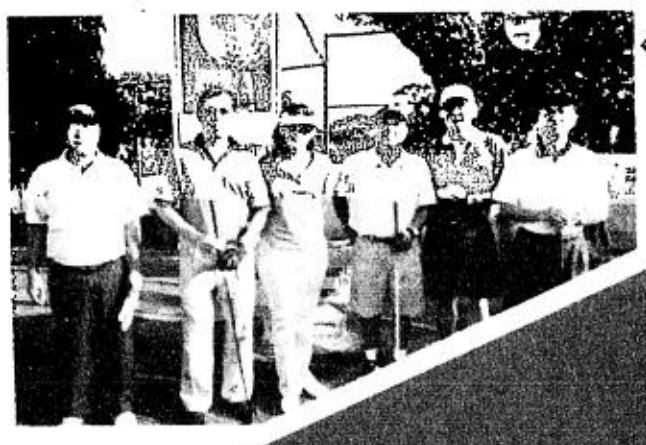
SETTING THE INFINITY PACE



The Cup's distinctive merchandising throughout the course

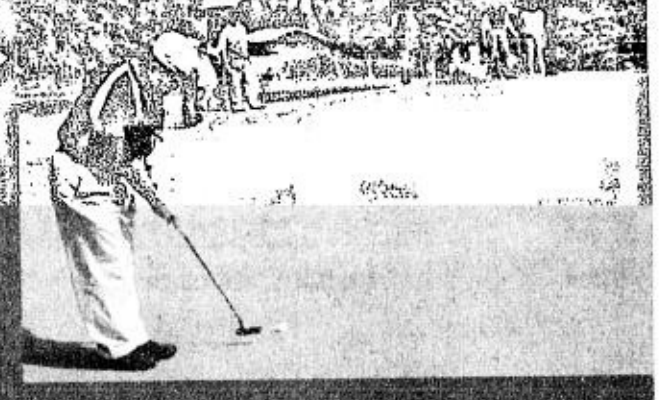
SMART Infinity

The Registration Committee



Frankie Locsin, Boy Martirez, Julie Carceller, Noel Binayas, Alejandro Que, and Henry Go

Gen. Roberto Lastimoso



Jesus Querubin, Johnny Young, Nestor Mendoza, and Nolan Rada

Anne Divinagracia, Susan Divinagracia, Marita Soriano, and Ryan Guanzon

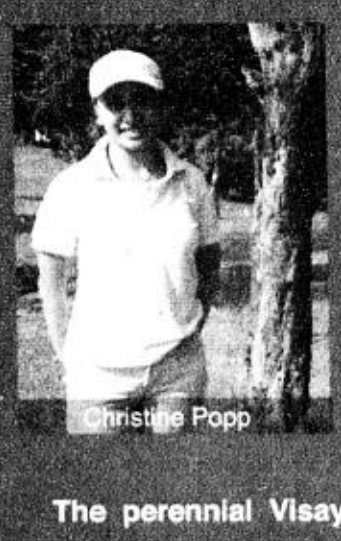
SMART President's Cup entertainer Maureene Larrazabal

The famous tee house with guests

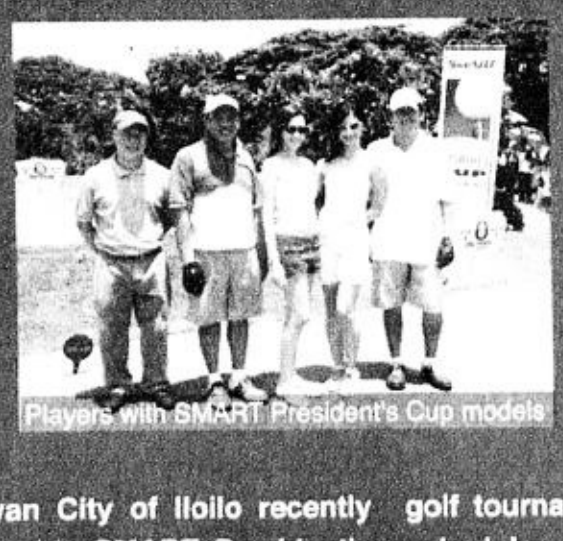
Food and drinks were overflowing throughout the day

SMART President Napoleon L. Nazareno

The simply amazing prizes that were up for grabs



Christine Popp



Players with SMART President's Cup models

Julie Carceller, Frankie Locsin, Polly Nazareno, and Boy Martirez

The dedicated team behind the successful event

The perennial Visayan City of Iloilo recently hosted the third nationwide SMART President's Cup with selected SMART Infinity and VIP subscribers among those competing in this annual golf tournament. Iloilo Golf and Country Club in Santa Barbara, where the well-organized competition was held, happens to be the oldest course in the Philippines as affirmed by the National Historical Institute. Designed and created by British and Scottish engineers in 1907, it will be celebrating its 100th year in 2007 by staging a centennial golf tournament from January to December of that year.

A Prestigious Tour

This year's SMART President's Cup graced Iloilo on August 19, in line with its theme of touring the various Philippine regions. Previously, Cebu and Davao played host to this nationwide golf tournament. Taking time out from his busy schedule was Gen. Roberto Lastimoso, bringing the head count to a full house of 72. Guests were treated to flowing food and drinks from breakfast to lunch, with pastries specially ordered from Tinapayan, one of Iloilo's finest bakeries.

Shotgun start was punctual at 7am. A wide array of snacks and refreshments were served at the tee tents, such as fresh fruits, granolas, rice crispies and chocolate bars and candies all flown in from Manila. The club, 1 of the 48 in the Worldwide Society of 1907 Clubs (London), extended its full support through the able hands of its president Mr. Frankie Locsin and GM Mr. Butch Jamerlan.

Pampering You the SMART Infinity Way

As always, guests were pampered the SMART Infinity way as many were overheard expressing amazement at some of the premium giveaway items they found in their lockers—Nike Boston bags with personalized tags containing towels, a Jennifer Rosales DVD and utility cases with special amenities inside. Up to par, entertainment certainly was no anti-climax as the alluring Maureen Larrazabal charmed the guests during the awards ceremony.

The weather was on SMART's side as well. Following 9 days of continuous rain, the clouds parted before the tournament got underway and not a drop of rain fell on the big day, making the conditions ideal for a day of golf. And with the success of this year's tournament, you can expect yet another high caliber President's Cup next year only from SMART Infinity.

One man's crusade becomes shared vision

EVERY now and then, we come across groups taking off to some coastal area or mountain for anti-pollution cleanups. These usually take place during Environment Month or Earth Day or some similar occasion.

It is rare to find anyone carrying out his activism alone, especially if he is a busy professional. But one man is doing just that, though today he is no longer alone.

For Dr. Rolando S. Capito, an anesthesiologist in his 40s at Philippine General Hospital in Manila, planting trees started as a way to thank his alma mater and pay it back for the opportunities it opened for him, especially since he was president of the University of the Philippines Medical Alumni Society at the time. He is today director of UP Manila Office of Alumni Affairs.

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

Alone

Back in the '80s, when Dr. Capito started planting trees, his colleagues left him pretty much to himself. It was probably the Ninoy Aquino assassination in 1983 that brought on the idea of doing something for the community, particularly his work-place, even if only by saving trees.

He started planting on PGH grounds, eventually moving out to adjacent streets wherever branches needed pruning or cutting or a corner needed shade.

Some people thought it odd and the doctor occasionally got into trouble.

Once, a Supreme Court security guard practically arrested him for violating tree-cutting laws. The guard soon found out who he was and learned he was not dealing with a mad man.

The incident had a happy offshoot: it made his colleagues aware of what he was doing and that helped his crusade.

He organized the Good Neighbors Initiative composed of employees in and around UP. The organization now includes PGH "neighbors" as the Supreme Court, schools, business offices, barangay, even the Western Police District (WPD). The groups now meet regularly to discuss community problems.

Linis Bayanihan

One project, Linis Bayanihan, aims to maintain cleanliness and orderliness. Through this multisectoral collaboration, some Initiative members (Manila Doctors Hospital, Phil-Am Life) have become quite civic-minded, even donating four motorcycles to WPD.

It is not only planting trees that occupies him, but saving them, too, which is why he goes around trimming and snipping off branches and dead leaves.

In Baryo Kapitolyo, Quezon City, where he resides with his family (his wife is former Lourdes Blanco, an obstetrician, also at PGH), he does the same things along the road to beautify the place.

Once, in his eagerness, he cut off some fronds of a palm tree that belonged to a resident who happened to value it highly. He had to apologize, but such booboos are rare.

Easier

Now that the Initiative is around as support system, it is easier to identify and deal with other problems besides tree-saving, such as the proliferation of sidewalk vendors and the mind-boggling traffic jams that plague the Padre Faura-Pedro Gil areas.

The group's agenda includes getting ordinances and community laws implemented, and getting the subject of good manners and right conduct back in the school curricula.

Dr. Capito has said another reason he started his one-man crusade was the fact that it was a nonpolitical expression of what he wanted to see happen in the country. Sometimes, the citizenry must do things for themselves, he says, they cannot expect government to do everything.

It's a pretty gutsy task, this job he has assigned to himself.

But as a doctor who cares for nature and whose duty involves relieving hospital patients of their pain, it is not surprising at all.

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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STAND-UP comic Greg Behrendt comes to Manila /G4

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

A desperate housewife meets a gentleman and nothing happens—so unlike television

The proper stranger

By Gilda Cordero Fernando

"Hey! Did you happen to see the most beautiful girl that walked out on me?
And if you did, was she crying, crying?
Hey! If you happen to see the most beautiful girl that walked out on me, tell her I'm sorry...
Tell her I miss my baby.
Oooh-ooh-ooh won't you tell her that I love her..."
-Song on the train from Manila to Legaspi, 1975

ALL marriages have rough years when little things grow into threatening issues stored deep in pressure-cooker silence. Tempers explode, there's no healing, sex is scant, each party is firmly convinced that it is the unrepentant other who ever starts the quarrels. The aggrieved, usually the female, who cannot bear the situation, may run away—for a day, three days—seldom forever.

Many years ago, in one such hurt and hurried flight, I recklessly boarded a train to Legaspi. I knew no one there, but I had visited it before with my husband and knew that there was a safe hotel, that was all I knew.

After an hour of my brooding in silence, the man sharing my train seat offered the newspaper he had finished reading. From the corner of my eye, I tried to assess the stranger: He had on a pair of neat but cheap leather shoes and was smoking a second-rate cigarette. Not an executive certainly (was I tired of executives!), a humble man, a teacher or a government employee. I was hesitant about getting into conversation, but after an hour the prospect of sitting in stony silence the rest of the eight-and-a-half-hour, none-too-comfortable trip was just too overwhelming.

He was a professor in an agricultural school. He had missed his plane and was going to Bicol to give a lecture on rural cooperatives as he periodically did. (An early NGO?) He commented that I wasn't quite the type of person he encountered on trains. I was just a housewife, I told him.

We small-talked. Whenever the train stopped at a station, we went down with the stream of passengers to take a quick snack and stretch our legs. We walked, balancing on the moonlit railroad tracks which were overgrown with weeds and littered with empty crates, a dreary landscape, like the butt end of one's dreams.

Spilling it out

Have you ever had the urge to tell your troubles to a total stranger? Well, I did, in this train overflowing with baskets and cheap luggage and plastic bags. (After all, I would never see him again.) The cause of the quarrel tumbled out of me like a torrent, and the attendant big and little problems, the never-ending pattern of grief, and there were tentacles and pieces of heart and liver along with it. Several times he nodded. Sighed. Poor guy, why had I chosen to spill my blood and guts out on his lap?

He told me, too, about himself. He was interested in rural development. His pharmacist wife worked as hard as himself to make both ends meet. He talked about his job and their two children and their apartment in one of the Projects. Not very interesting, he apologized. We are just ordinary people. And I remember thinking, how nice to be quiet and ordinary, not to be known for anything, not to be the wife of a busy executive who hated the corporate world for being so plastic.

When the stop was a long one, we boarded a tricycle and rode around the town, observing its characteristics, enjoying the breeze and the strange dialects. Once, we stopped by an old church and lighted candles, he for his causes and supplications, me for mine.

End of line

After half a millennium the train reached Camalig at 12 p.m. End of the line. In my innocence, I probably assumed that the train would take me straight to the hotel door. I struggled down with my canvas bag only to view with dismay a pitch-black landscape with a miserable shed lighted only by a gasoline drum with a fire burning in it. (The real station was out of commission.) Everyone had scrambled out, and the only passenger jeepneys were already full and pulling away. I looked around frantically, fearful at the lateness of the hour. A small, black, for-hire car was parked by the roadside, and my seatmate was waving to me to board. We shared the car with an elderly couple.

He had gone, he told me, through this countryside many times, but the Mayon had always been clouded he'd never seen its full face even once. But the car took a corner and suddenly, there the volcano was, sharply silhouetted in the full moon—a perfect cone! Involuntarily, we held hands. As soon as I became aware of it, I disengaged my hand, for there was the rest of the night before us (he was staying at the same hotel), and I didn't want to send equivocal signals about that.

The sleepy personnel at the front desk booked us in our separate rooms. We were very hungry. The dining room was closed, and we had some sandwiches brought up. I was afraid he'd ask us to eat them in his room, or mine, and have an unpleasant scene, but we agreed to have them on the coffee table in the empty lobby.

Goodnight

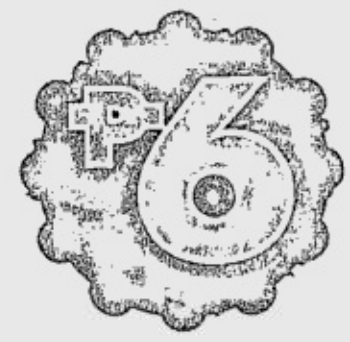
We said goodnight at the door of my room. He held out his palm. Give me all your tranquilizers, he said, for sometime during the long trip, I must have mentioned that I had brought a bottleful of them. Immediately I realized what he was thinking. I laughed and shook my head and assured him that I was not the suicidal type. He said he would be leaving the hotel at 6 a.m. and invited me to join him for breakfast. I said no, I couldn't possibly be awake at that hour, thanks for everything (but most especially for being such a nice man).

That night I took a scalding bath, staying under the shower with the water flowing down my body for a long, long time. I felt clean as a bleached bone. The room with its artless red lampshade was lonely, and I wondered if I should phone long distance home. (I didn't.) Physically and emotionally drained, I popped a Valium in my mouth and curled up on the thin pillows like a fetus.

At 5 a.m., I was bolt upright. It must have been my vanity. Suddenly, I wanted to have breakfast with this stranger who had seen me only looking distraught and disheveled and very grimy. I took out a light, ruffly dress and put on a bit of makeup. I found him sitting in the dining room, reading the newspaper and drinking coffee, the perfect volcano framed by the window behind him. We were delighted to see each other.

After breakfast, I decided to walk him to his bus, for what blessed thing did I have to do on this empty day in this strange town? We walked down a street that was awash with morning rain and ended up at the wharf. He pointed out spots he had fished in on longer assignments there. Later, he tucked me into a tricycle and boarded the bus for Sorsogon.

I never saw or heard from the gentle stranger again. I was glad he never followed me up (he could trace me through the phone book) for that would have tarnished the interlude. He was, after all, only a kind stranger on a train, and I a young, runaway wife desperately needing a weeping wall for my grief.



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BY MARC REYES & TAGA-ILOG

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PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.

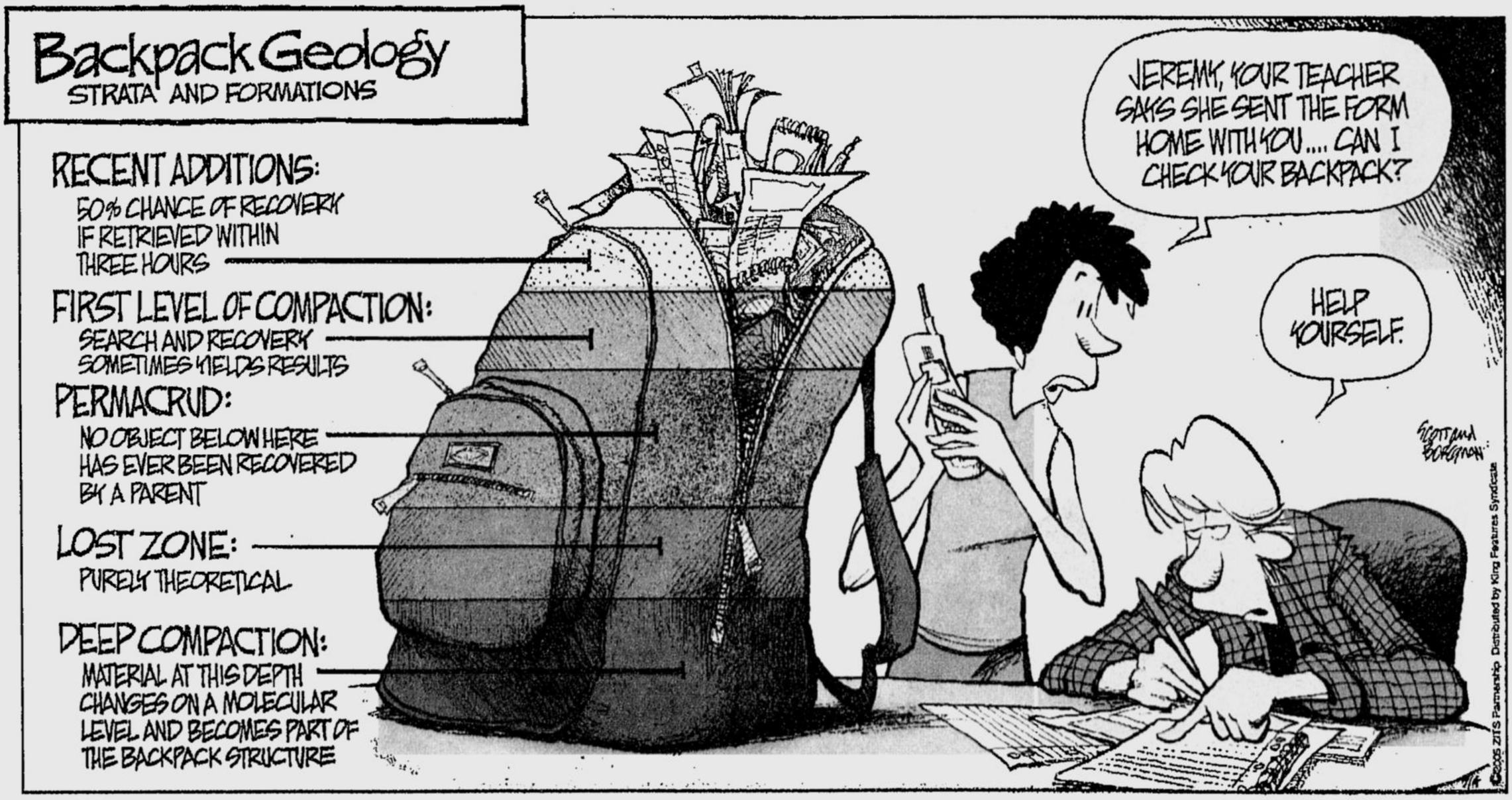
FOLLOW THE FOLD TO GET TO MIDGARD

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS

ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



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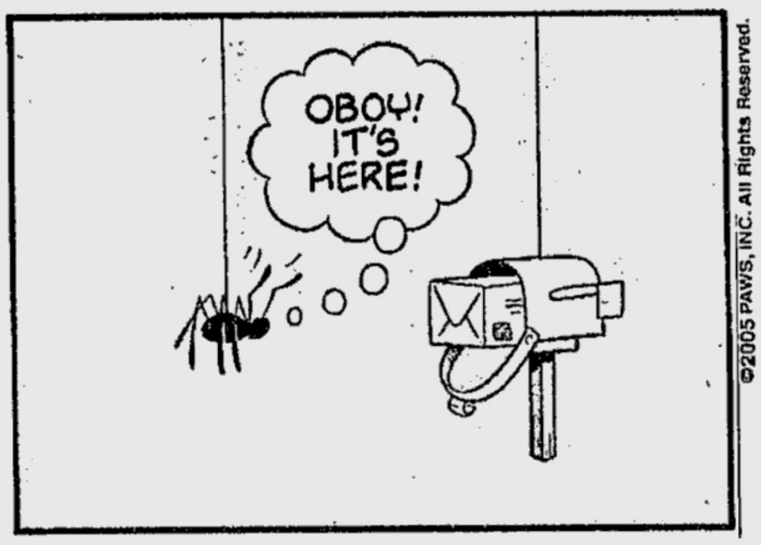

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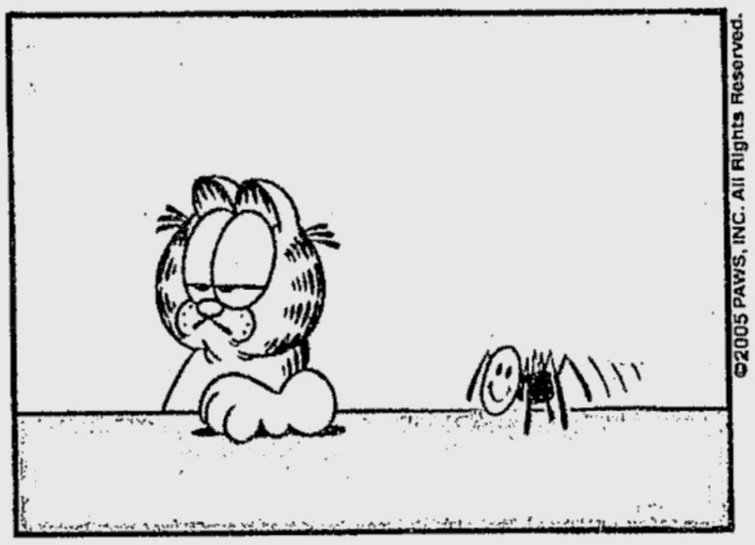

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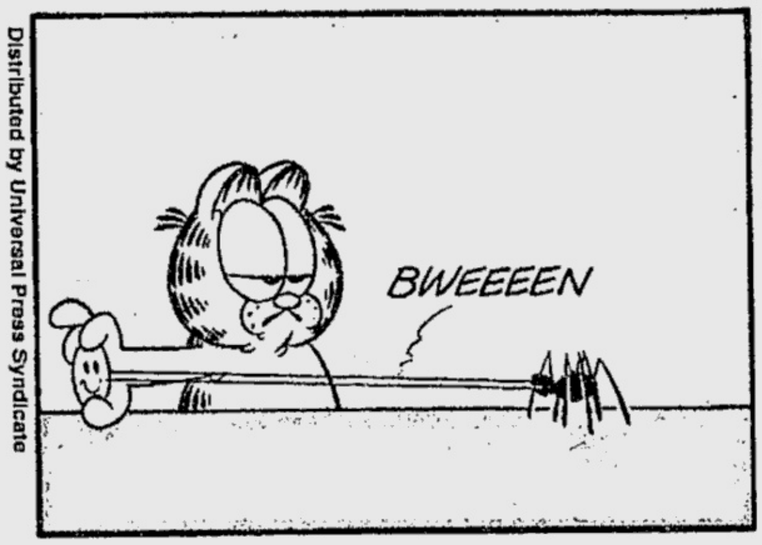

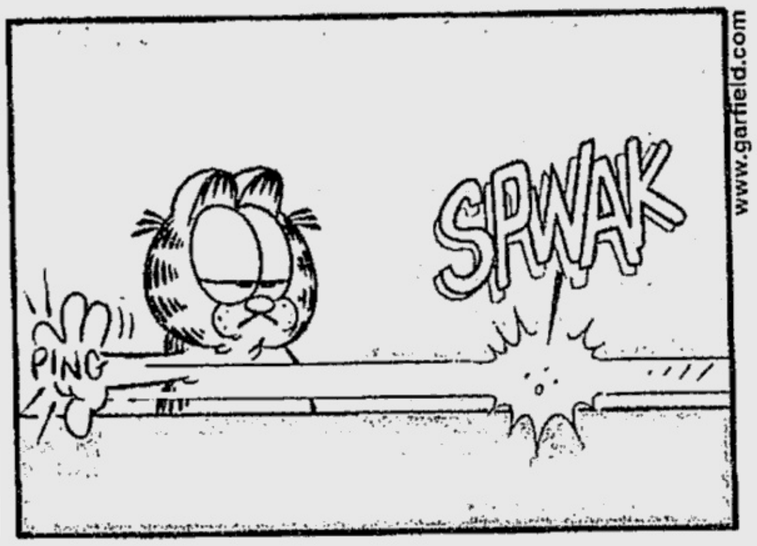

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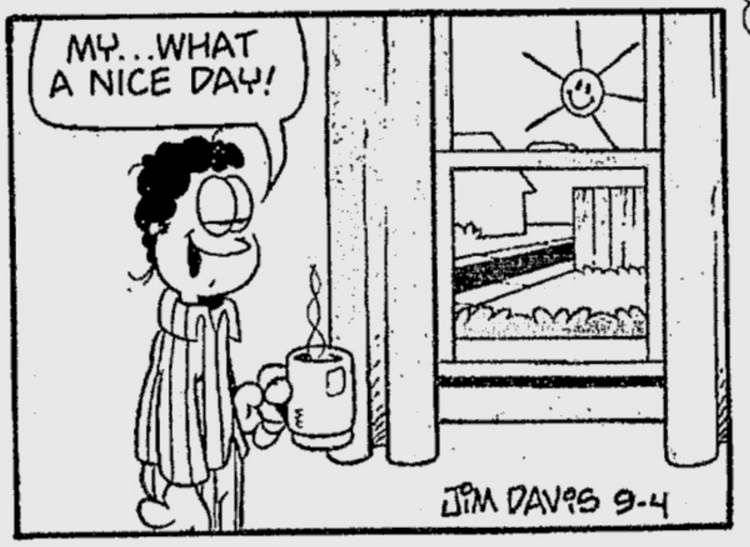


FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO

B. TURN THE PAGE TO GET IT RIGHT

WHAT THEY HEAR :

STEPH BRAVO

Listen up, sisters!

GREG Behrendt, dispenser of witty advice to hopeful and hopeless romantics, is coming to the Ayala Greenbelt mall for a standup comedy act sure to strike a familial chord at 8 p.m. on Sept. 15. He will also give a talk on Sept. 16 at the Greenbelt 3 Lobby.

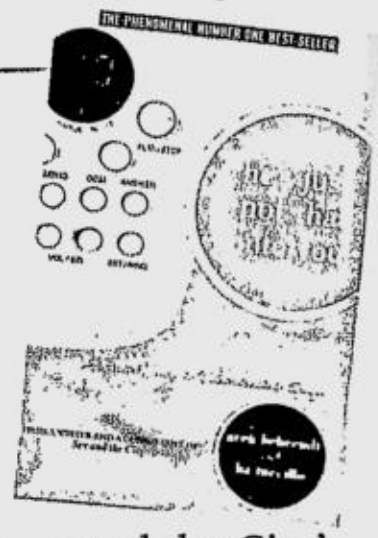
A story consultant for the hit show "Sex and The City," a regular in "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno," and a favorite guest on "Oprah," Behrendt is also the author of the bestselling "He's Just Not That Into You: The No-Excuses Truth To Understanding Guys."

Hear more from the man who gives women the lowdown on men when Ayala Greenbelt presents Greg Behrendt on Sept. 15 and 16, and figure him out once and for all.

'Sex and the City' story consultant Greg Behrendt will give relationship advice at his Ayala Greenbelt standup comedy show on Sept. 15

7 excuses men give for not showing up for a date, according to Greg Behrendt

1 He doesn't want to ruin the friendship.
2 He wants to take it slow.
3 He's been traveling a lot.
4 He's got a lot on his mind.
5 He's afraid to get hurt again.
6 He's just not ready.
7 He's finding himself.



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• ATC, ALABANG 842-9545 / 809-1726

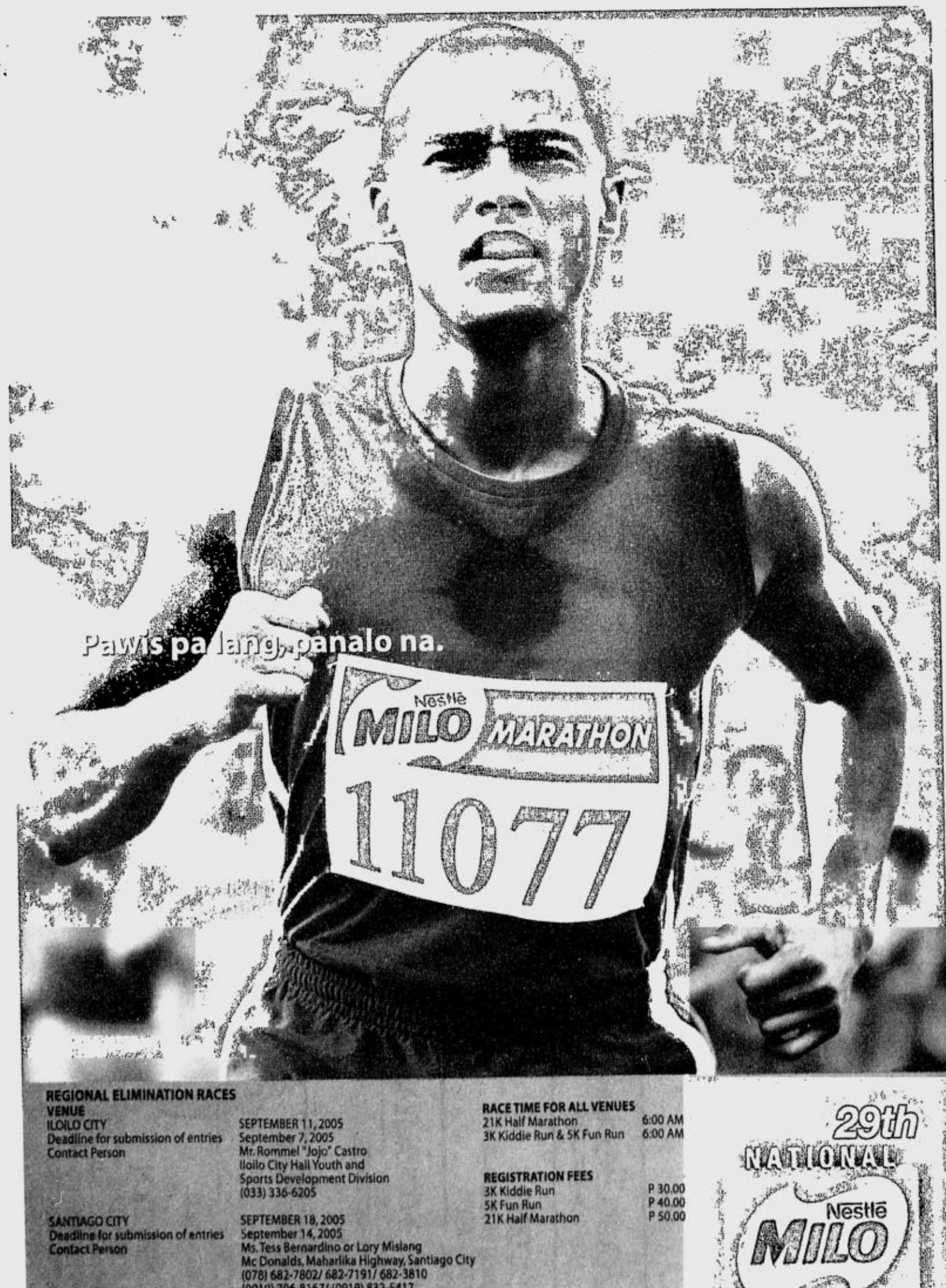
Top 10 excuses women give for male bad behavior, according to Greg Behrendt

10 But he's a really good person.
9 But he's really trying to be better.
8 But it's just the way he's brought up.
7 But it's not always going to be like this.
6 But he's just trying to help.
5 Maybe it's just a little quirk.
4 But I like him this way.
3 But I've gotten fat.
2 But he just says things that he doesn't mean.

And the No. 1 excuse women give, what Behrendt calls the rare and exotic excuse:

1 Maybe he's afraid of intimacy.

Here is what Behrendt has to say to women who have to listen to such excuses: "Don't waste time. Cut your losses, and move on, sister!"



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THE BIGGEST, THE LONGEST, AND THE GRANDEST RUNNING

Orchid show ends Sept. 5

THE MID-YEAR orchid and garden show of the Philippine Orchid Society at the sunken gardens of Quezon City Hall corner Elliptical Road and East Avenue in Quezon City ends tomorrow, Sept. 5.

Take the time to see this year's major competition winners.

The entry of Vicente Chin Jr. of Los Baños, Laguna, won Best Orchid in Show Paph. Gary Romagna (*St. Swithin X rothschildianum*) and Best Paphiopedilum.

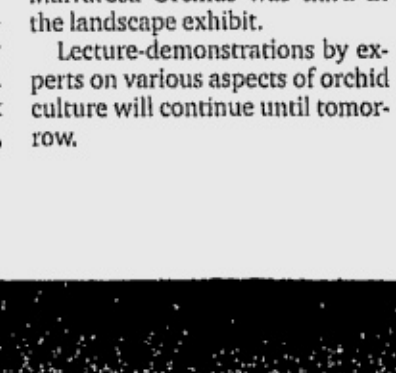
Cynthia Mariano Isidro of Mega Orchids got four prizes: Best Cattleya Lc. Netrasiri Dark Prince, Best Dendrobium Den. Charlene, Best Other Genera (Monopodial) Aer. Laurenceae X V. Somsri, Best Oncidium Onc. Josephine. She also won second prize for her solo landscape exhibit.

Jun Golamco got three first prizes: Best Vandaceous Alliance Ascda. John Blase, Best Foreign Species Paph. Godefroyae and Best Philippine Hybrid Ascda. Amelita Ramos X sanderiana (Philippine Hybrid).

Other winners were Cora Purificacion and Anna Ruth P. Conde: Best Phalaenopsis Phal Brother Gold X amboinensis, Best Philippine Species Den. Dearei, Best Cultured Plant Den. Bill Takamatsu and Best Other Genera (Sympodial) Gram. Multiflorum. Mother and daughter, with Vic Chin, Rap Eugenio and Vangie Go, were first in the landscape category.

The Best Vanda sanderiana award was won by Cirilo Chua from Davao while Nani Perez of Malvarosa Orchids was third in the landscape exhibit.

Lecture-demonstrations by experts on various aspects of orchid culture will continue until tomorrow.



BLE. Chia Lin Shinsa #1, Vicente Chin Jr.

INQUIRER

JOB Market

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2005
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BE SOMEBODY BY YOUR NEXT HIGH SCHOOL REUNION.

COME AND WORK FOR ONE OF FORTUNE MAGAZINE'S MOST ADMIRED COMPANIES 5 YEARS RUNNING

INBOUND TECHNICAL CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVES

Site: Ortigas, Commonwealth, Makati

Educational Background
- Bachelor's degree preferably in Computer Science or Engineering

Candidate Profile
- Proficient in basic computer operations
- Must be flexible and willing to be assigned to varying working hours
- Able to relate with customers courteously and develop rapport
- Dependable and has good work ethic
- Pays attention to detail
- Is fluent in English and communicates effectively
- Able to solve problems creatively and effectively
- Has technical knowledge in DSL, Internet and networking

Dimension & Scope
Interface with customers through inbound internet problems to solve and help the customer with products and services.

INBOUND CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVES

Site: Ortigas, Commonwealth, Alabang, Makati, Cebu

Educational Background
- Bachelor's degree from any field
- Minimum requirement: Completion of at least 2 years of college studies

Candidate Profile
- Proficient in basic computer operations
- Must be flexible and willing to be assigned to varying working hours
- Able to relate with customers courteously and develop rapport
- Dependable and has good work ethic
- Pays attention to detail
- Is fluent in English and communicates effectively
- Able to solve problems creatively and effectively

Dimension & Scope
Interface with customers through inbound and outbound calls to solve problems and help the customer with products and services.

OUTBOUND CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVES

Site: Makati

Educational Background
- Bachelor's degree preferred
- Minimum requirement: Completion of at least 2 years of college studies

Candidate Profile
- Must have an excellent command of the English language
- Comfortable speaking with Americans and highly conversational
- Should be energetic, lively and enthusiastic, while providing professional customer service
- Applicants with at least six (6) months of call center experience (preferably outbound) are encouraged to apply
- Full-time positions available

Dimension & Scope
Interface with customers through outbound calls to up-sell, collection, after sales, solve problems and help the customer with products and services.

TEAM LEADER

- At least 6 months previous experience as a Supervisor/Team Leader
- Bachelor's degree in related field
- Call center/customer service background is preferred
- Strong ability to maximize performance

Ortigas Office
24th Floor, Robinson's Equitable Tower
#4 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center
Pasig City
(02) 857-7588

Commonwealth Office
Dillman Commercial Center
#46 Don Mariano Marcos Avenue, Dillman
Quezon City
(02) 931-3710

Alabang Office
Block 44, Northgate Cyberzone
Muntinlupa City
(02) 758-1688

Makati Office
8th Floor, Tower 1, The Enterprise Center
Ayala Avenue
Makati City
(02) 857-7788

UP Ayala Office
Level 21, 6th Tholos Square
1150 Espana Boulevard cor. Padre Faura
Sampaloc, Manila
(02) 735-2008

Cebu Office
IT Avenue, Mindanao Avenue, Ellatel
Barangay Hills
Cebu City
(032) 416-5810

For technical customer care requirements, call 6367630 or email your resume to hrc@teledevelopment.com
For general customer care requirements, call 8577760 or email your resume to philippinesrecruitment@convergys.com

CONVERGYS
Outthinking. Outdoing.

As a global presence, Nestlé ensures excellent standard of quality and high nutritional value of the products it manufactures and distributes all over the world.

In the Philippines, the responsibility lies in the hands of over 3,300 Filipinos comprising the Nestlé family. And like any concerned head of the Family, Nestlé oversees the growth and development of its members through competitive compensation packages, extensive benefit programs, and significant training to nurture rewarding career paths in the company.

Think of what a fulfilling career at Nestlé can bring you. Take a look at our employment opportunities and see if you are what we are looking for.

Nestlé

Good Food, Good Life

Key Account Managers / Specialists
Location: Across the Philippines

Responsibilities:
- Manage the company's business with a group of key accounts in a given area
- Achieve company business objectives on sales, accounts receivables, returns, market share, etc.
- Initiate, conceptualize, coordinate and implement business-building programs for key accounts
- Coordinate and implement national promotions
- Conduct regular business and category reviews

Requirements:
- Sales experience from a multinational company handling supermarket or retail key accounts
- Graduate of a Business course with above-average scholastic records
- With strong business and customer-focused orientation
- Consistently sets and achieves high work and quality standards
- Ambitious and with uncompromising work ethics
- Energetic, self-motivated and thrives in a demanding environment
- Can deal and work well with different personalities and integrate with different cultures
- Proficient in computer applications
- Inclined to a long-term career in Sales
- Willing to accept / relocate family in provincial assignments

Distributor Sales Managers/ Supervisors
Location: Across the Philippines

Responsibilities:
- Manage overall sales operation in a provincial Sales area
- Control and supervise provincial distributors
- Service major wholesaler account
- Manage promotions in assigned area
- Conduct training for Sales and Distributor personnel

Requirements:
- At least one-year experience and with good track record in handling consumer products distributors in a supervisory capacity
- Graduate of a Business course preferably with above average scholastic records
- With strong business acumen, distributorship orientation and entrepreneurial skills
- With exceptional team leadership qualities; action and solution-oriented and with ability to inspire others
- With superior interpersonal and communication skills; can deal and work with different personalities and assimilate with different cultures
- Driven to excel and achieve desired results; proactive; works well under pressure; willing to do occasional weekend activities
- Proficient in computer applications
- Willing to accept / relocate family in provincial assignments

Interested applicants are requested to apply on-line at
www.nestle.com.ph
on or before 15 September 2005
Previous applicants need not apply

John Clements Consultants, Inc.

- **Are you willing to work the graveyard shift?**
- **Are you fluent in the English language?**
- **Are you interested to apply as:**

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPS.
<Keyword: CSR>
With or without experience in customer service role; exposure in an international call center is an advantage.

OUTBOUND SALES AGENTS
<Keyword: OSA>
With minimum of 8 months experience in the same capacity; highly confident, assertive, self-driven and has strong selling skills.

INBOUND CUSTOMER ASSOCIATES
<Keyword: ICA>
With minimum of 6 months experience in the same capacity; results-oriented; with good customer service skills and has the ability to work in a high volume and fast-paced environment.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT REPS. - Level 2
<Keyword: TSR>
College level or graduates of Technical or Computer-related course; with at least 6 months' technical experience.

The positions are open to all college level or graduates of any course, results-oriented, with good customer service skills, highly committed, with strong interpersonal skills, fluent in English language and with good listening skills.

Our clients offer a very competitive compensation package to the chosen candidates. Please visit us personally, bring your resumes at the address below and we will immediately process your application. We guarantee to give you the results on the same day. You may also apply through SMS by typing **Profile(space)<keyword>(space)<name, cellphone & landline numbers> and send to 700JOBS (7005627). FOR SMART USERS ONLY.**

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A Division of John Clements Consultants

Level 12B, LKG Tower, 6801 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Telephone: (+63 2) 884-1227 / 889-5957 / 884-1418
Look for: **Errol / Dawnie / Patrick**
E-mail Address: jobopenings@johnclements.com
visit: www.johnclements.com

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infocom

The pioneer in the Philippine ISP industry currently has vacancies for:

Customer Service Representatives

- Graduates of Computer Science, or other 4-year IT-related courses
- Proficient in Internet troubleshooting, various operating systems and email client software

Recruitment Assistant

- A graduate of BS Human Resources, Behavioral Science, Psychology, or other similar degree programs
- At least 6 months on-the-job experience in medium-to-large scale recruitment and selection; specifically in sourcing, scheduling, interviewing and testing
- For project-based employment

Send your comprehensive résumé to: jobs@info.com.ph

Plain text format or MS Word attachments only.
Indicate the position you are applying for on the subject line.

Or to:
Human Resources
Infocom Technologies, Inc.
3/f PLDT Tower 1, 6799 Ayala Ave., Makati City 1226

We will only respond to applicants who meet the minimum required qualifications.

Luzon Hydro Corporation

Manila Office:
Level 6, Legaspi Building, 110 Legaspi Street
1229 Makati City, Philippines
Tel. (63 2) 750 3189 • Fax (63 2) 817 2380

Project Office:
Level 2, CDD Towers, St. Therese Compound
Sevilla Sur, 2500 San Fernando
La Union, Philippines
Tel. (63 72) 242 4766 • Fax (63 72) 242 4830

Luzon Hydro Corporation is restructuring the operation of its 70MW hydro plant (located in Ilocos Sur), and has a number of new positions to fill. We invite applications from experienced hydro plant operations and maintenance personnel for the following roles

Operations Supervisor
This position reports to the General Manager and is a key position in ensuring the efficient and effective operation of the facility. We expect that suitable applicants would be degree-qualified engineers with over 10 years experience preferably in Operations Management of hydro facilities, with at least half of that time being in Control or Supervisory roles.

Maintenance Supervisor
This position reports to the General Manager and is a key position in ensuring the efficient and effective maintenance of the generation and associated assets. We expect that suitable applicants would be degree-qualified engineers with over 10 years' experience preferably in Maintenance Management of hydro facilities, with at least half of that time being in Control or Supervisory roles.

Support Services Supervisor
This position reports to the General Manager and is a key position in ensuring efficient and effective administration and purchasing processes. We expect that suitable applicants would be degree-qualified in Commerce or a Business related field with over 5 years' experience in administration, accounting and procurement.

Warehouseman
This position reports to the Maintenance Supervisor and is a key position in ensuring the availability of spares and consumables for the plant maintenance. We expect that suitable applicants would have a college or other tertiary qualifications with over 5 years' experience in managing warehouse operations.

Mechanical Technician
This position reports to the Maintenance Supervisor and is essential for ensuring competent maintenance of the generation and related assets. We expect that suitable applicants would have an apprenticeship or degree in a mechanical field with over 10 years' experience of hands-on maintenance preferably within hydro facilities.

Electrical Technician
This position reports to the Maintenance Supervisor and is essential for ensuring competent maintenance of the generation and related assets. We expect that suitable applicants would have an apprenticeship or degree in an electrical field with over 10 years' experience of hands-on maintenance preferably within hydro facilities.

Formal qualifications for all of the above positions would be an advantage

Applications detailing position applied for, education & experience should be addressed and posted or e mailed to:

The Managing Director
Luzon Hydro Corporation
Level 6, Legaspi Building
110 Legaspi Street
Legaspi Village
1229 Makati City
Philippines
Tel: (02) 750 3189
Email: jkaringal@luzonhydro.com

WANTED BY A LEADING MANUFACTURER OF AUTOMOTIVE PARTS

SALES SUPERVISOR (Automotive Aftermarket)
- Female, not over 26 years old
- Must have relevant experience in sales & marketing
- Self starter, aggressive and very pleasing personality
- Knowledge in business development focusing on improvement of sales through expanding distribution channel
- Must know basic dealer development such as implementation of incentive program for dealers and dealer sales personnel
- Excellent oral and written communication skills

SHOWROOM PERSONNEL
- Female, not over 25 years old
- Fresh graduates are welcome
- Attractive with very pleasing personality
- Good customer orientation
- Excellent communication skills

Interested applicants may sent their comprehensive resumé with recent ID picture at Las Piñas City post office PO Box No. 0192, Las Piñas City or e-mail address: hrd_greatjob@yahoo.com

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LAWYERS
- With 1 or 2 years experience in litigation and good writing skills

LEGAL ASSISTANTS
- Preferably with a Bachelor of Laws degree

Needed by an Ortigas Center-based law firm
Send your Bio-Data and Transcript of Grades to P.O. Box No. 13522 Ortigas Center Post Office 1605 Pasig City

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SALES/ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

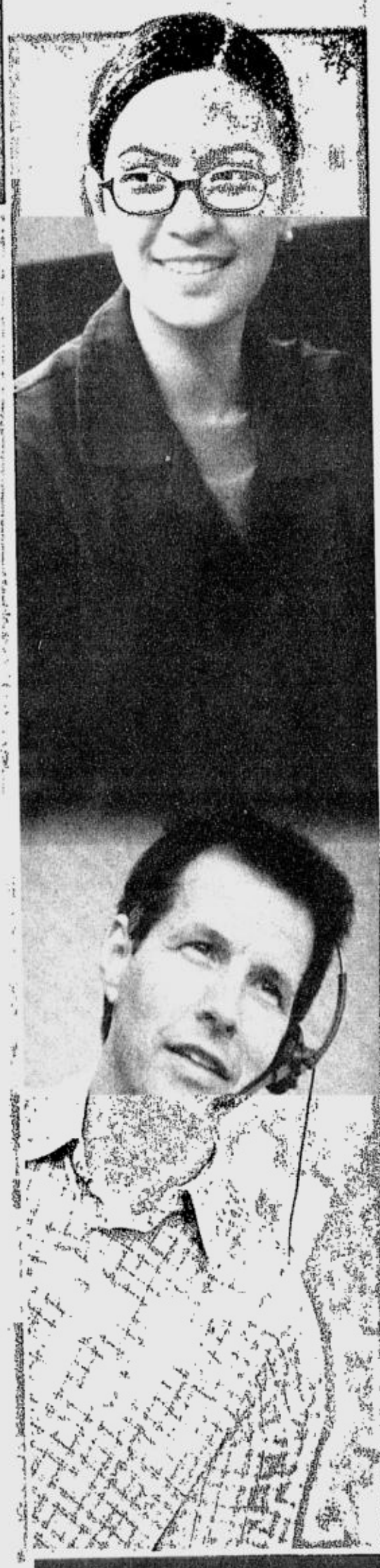
Male/Female; between 23-30 years of age; Graduate of any four (4) years course; with good written and communication skills in English & Filipino; willing to do field work.

Please apply personally and bring your comprehensive resumé with recent 2x2 ID photo and other credentials to:

G/F Unit 3, Park Trade Centre Bldg., Revenue St., Madrigal Business Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City

JOIN OUR WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES

TeleTech is a leading global provider of customer management and business process outsourcing solutions. Established in the U.S. 23 years ago, TeleTech is headquartered in Denver, Colorado with a global network that extends across 68 customer management centers in North America, Asia-Pacific, Europe, and Latin America. In 2001, TeleTech began operations in the Philippines and since then we have built three centers in Fort Bonifacio, Pasay City, and the newest in Novaliches, Quezon City. Globally we support 32,000 employees; more than 3,000 of whom are in the Philippines.



PASAY Customer Management Center

Inbound Customer Service Representatives
- Preferably a graduate of any 4-year course
- With excellent communication skills in English
- At least 6 month experience in the airline industry or sales experience preferred
- Familiar with Galileo or Apollo reservation software

Instructional Systems Designer
- Four years of Training and Education Product Development
- Three years of direct eLearning development experience
- Understanding of the most useful impact of Instructional Design Methodology in eLearningTraining and Quality Supervisor
- At least 6 months experience in a call center
- With previous supervisory and training experience (team lead experience highly desirable)
- Comprehensive knowledge of quality assurance practices and processes
- Comprehensive experience with all aspects of training (assessment, development, facilitation, analysis, etc)

Quality Assurance Specialists
- At least 6 months in travel or airline company
- Preferably with previous experience in the said role
- Statistical Analysis

Purchasing Specialist
- At least college graduate with BA/BS or equivalent work experience
- Experience in managing procurement processes and issues
- Strong Microsoft skills
- Knowledge of the Oracle Purchasing application
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, both written and verbal

Site Director
- Minimum 7 years of proven experience running a large call center operation; preferably in the outsourced environment with proven experience in successful improvement and client satisfaction
- A history of excellent interpersonal and customer interaction skills to include communications, presentation and conflict resolution skills.
- Experience in current core procedures and processes within a CMC Structure.
- Proven organizational skills and ability to manage multiple and changing priorities

Team Leaders (multiple accounts)
- Minimum 2 years call centre management or Team Leader experience within a service driven or high tech corporation
- Shift management capabilities and ability to manage varying skills of employees
- Analytical ability to decipher statistical performance reports
- Working experience in the airline industry

Workforce Planning Supervisor
- 1+ Year Experience in an OSC role or similar.
- Minimum 2-3 years experience in a Call Centre Industry
- Experience with an advanced PABX, Call Management Systems, Spreadsheets, Forecasting and Scheduling systems.
- Minimum 2 years experience with Blue Pumpkin workforce management tool or equivalent.

Trainers (Multiple accounts)
- College Graduate Degree Qualified
- Worked in a call centre environment for a minimum of 3 months.
- Previous training or presentation experience
- Travel/Tourism background preferred
- Insurance/medical background

IT Desktop Support Associate
- College graduates
- Experience in PC hardware and software setup, installation, configuration, troubleshooting, and maintenance
- Must be available for late nights and weekend periods
- Requires taking ownership of individual desktop issues and seeing them through to completion

HR Generalist
- With at least 2 years HR experience
- Willing to work shift schedules
- Able to maintain the strictest confidentiality
- Working knowledge of Labor laws, SSS, Philhealth, HDMF, BIR Tax Tables, and other relevant rules and regulations

NOVALICHES Customer Management Center

Customer Service Representative
- Multiple Inbound Accounts
- Graduate of any 4-year course preferred
- Must have at least 1 year of customer service, sales OR technical experience
- Previous experience in a shift work environment preferred

Team Leaders
- Minimum 1 year experience in call centre management role
- Shift management capabilities and ability to manage varying skills of employees
- Analytical ability to decipher statistical performance reports
- Superior customer service skills and strong multi-tasking and delegation skills

Workforce Planning Manager
- Minimum 3 years experience in a Call Centre Industry
- Minimum 3 years experience in a workforce planning role or similar
- 5 years experience with Blue Pumpkin workforce management tool or equivalent.
- Experience with an advanced PABX, Call Management Systems, Spreadsheets, Forecasting and Scheduling systems

Quality Assurance Supervisor
- BS/BA/B. Commerce/(Communication/Management) Degree
- Minimum 1-3 years experience in an Inbound Service desk or technical call center experience
- Excellent oral and written communication, supervisory and time management skills
- Knowledge of Six Sigma, Total Quality Management and other quality concepts

ACE Site Project Manager
- Must possess excellent organization and project management skills with strong emphasis on coordinating projects, communication and follow up
- 1-2 years project or project management experience, preferably involving offshore support of outsourced North American business
- 3 years demonstrated experience and knowledge of training and quality teams and processes or equivalent experience

Quality Assurance Manager
- BS/BA/B. Commerce/B.Commerce (Communication/Management) Degree
- Minimum 1-3 years experience in an equivalent role, preferably within a Teleservices or telecommunications company
- Proven experience in document control, quality management system concepts
- Knowledge and proven ability to utilize: Avaya CentreVu, eQuality Balance (WITNESS), NICE Universe and other call recording solutions.

Ace Coach
- Must Bachelor's degree holder with excellent English writing/ speech and grammar skills.
- Experience in training, coaching and / or evaluating voice and accent and who have completed the full ACE course or equivalent.
- Experience facilitator who can implement program changes quickly and with the ability to work on multiple projects in a rapidly changing environment

Find out more about us at www.teletech.com

For Novaliches >
Visit us at 2/f, Robinsons Place Novaliches, Quirino Highway corner Maligaya Road, Quezon City
Phone based test: 552.97.99
Information: 552.97.25
Email: hrjobs_ph@teletech.com

For Pasay City >
Visit us at Building F, SM Corporate Offices, 1000 Bay Boulevard, Bay City, Pasay City
Phone based test: 552.9799
Information: 552.97.51 to 552.97.55
Email: hrjobs_ph@teletech.com

TeleTech®

All of TeleTech's facilities are equipped with the latest state-of-the-art technology solutions that ensure high-quality interactions with our clients, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Our world-class centers feature well-equipped training rooms, sleeping lounges, a coffee shop, a game room, and a full-service cafeteria.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY!

A fast-growing export underwear garments manufacturing company & logistics located in Laguna invites qualified personnel to apply for the following positions

INTERNAL AUDIT MANAGER – University/College graduate major in BS Accountancy graduate with CPA license; with minimum of 10 years in Audit experience, at least 4 years in reputable auditing firms, preferably with exposure in garments manufacturing environment; managerial experience with exposure to compliance and setting up procedures; strong analytical mind, excellent leadership and organizational skills with high proficiency in written and spoken English.

SENIOR FINANCIAL ANALYST – University/College graduate major in BS Accountancy graduate with CPA license; must have 4 years experience in the same capacity preferably from a manufacturing set-up; knowledgeable on all Accounting Systems and Procedures; must possess strong drive, leadership, organizational skills and analytical abilities; well versed on BIR Tax laws; payroll system, regulatory requirements of PEZA, government and labor laws on taxation and wages; excellent spoken and written English; computer literate.

ACCOUNTING AUDITOR – Accounting graduate preferably with CPA license; must have 5 years experience in the same capacity preferably from a manufacturing set-up; knowledgeable in all accounting system and procedures; must possess strong drive and analytical abilities; good spoken and written English; computer literate.

ADMINISTRATION MANAGER – University/College graduate in Business Management or Human Resources Management; 5 years experience in garment manufacturing in the same position; familiar in Philippine Labor Law, knowledgeable in handling Labor relations, health & safety, janitorial, security, shuttle service & bldg. maintenance is necessary; excellent spoken and written English; computer literate. Less experience shall be considered as ASST. ADMINISTRATION MANAGER.

PRODUCTION MANAGER – University/College graduate in Industrial Engineering or production related studies; 10 years solid experience in managing production planning and process of garment manufacturing company preferably in lingerie products; good spoken and written English; computer literate. Less experience shall be considered as ASSISTANT PRODUCTION MANAGER.

QUALITY CONTROL MANAGER – University graduate; must have at least 6 years solid experience in the same capacity preferably from garment manufacturing set-up; familiar with international quality standard, i.e. AQL 2.5 standard; must posses strong leadership and training skills; work closely with Production Manager to improve the quality level of the products; familiar with quality requirements of U.S. and Europe buyers; excellent spoken and written English; computer literate. Less experience shall be considered as ASSISTANT QUALITY CONTROL MANAGER

IMPEX MANAGER – University/College graduate major in BS Custom Administration; knowledgeable in Import and Export documentations procedures; familiar with PEZA and Customs rules and regulations; must have at least 5 years solid experience at the same capacity in garment manufacturing industry; good spoken and written English; computer literate is a must. Experience with less than 5 years may be considered as ASSISTANT IMPEX MANAGER.

PURCHASING MANAGER – University/College graduate, knowledgeable in material sourcing and purchasing of general administrative items, such as office supplies, maintenance and carpentry materials and others production used materials in manufacturing preferably with 5 years work experience in the same experience in the same capacity; good spoken and written English; computer literate.

ASST. PPC MANAGER – University/College graduate. At least 2 years experience in a garment manufacturing firm on Production Planning & Control; good spoken and written English; computer literate.

PPC COORDINATOR – University/College graduate preferably with experience in Production Planning; Can handle pressure; good spoken and written English; computer literate.

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR – University/College graduate preferably BS Accountancy; Must have at least 3 years experience in the same capacity; preferably from a manufacturing set-up; knowledgeable in all accounting procedures; good spoken and written English; computer literate.

ACCOUNTING CLERK – Accounting graduate preferably with experience as an Accounting Clerk; good spoken and written English; computer literate.

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER – University/College graduate major in BS Industrial Engineering; 3 to 5 years solid experience in garment industry; good spoken and written English; computer literate.

MANAGEMENT/PRODUCTION TRAINEE – University/College graduate can relate with different kind of people and willing to work on job rotation in junior management or production functions; fast learner; computer literate; A.) can speak and write English; B.) can speak and write Chinese preferably Mandarin and Cantonese.

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR – University/College graduate preferably Industrial Engineering with production work experience; computer literate; can speak and write English or Chinese

SEWING SUPERVISOR/ASST. SEWING SUPERVISOR – University/College graduate. Must have technical knowledge in sewing operation; knowledgeable in sewing line management and balancing is a must; 4-5 years experience as Sewing Supervisor; good spoken and written English; computer literate.

SEWING LINE LEADER – High School graduate. Skilled in Sewing handling and methods; knowledgeable in Sewing management and balancing is a must; with 3 years experience as a Sewing Line Leader; good spoken and written English; computer literate.

SEWING OPERATOR – can operate computerized sewing machines with good skills.

Candidates apply the above positions must be willing to station in Laguna area. We offer attractive package, please send your resume with 2 photos to Santa Rosa Technopark P.O. Box 39934 attention to Personnel Department or call directly to (049) 5410779 HRD Department for interview arrangement.

ESCALER & COMPANY, INC. (ECI), a conglomerate of companies involved in financial management, food production, restaurant operations, manpower pooling, entertainment talent management, call center operations and real estate, is currently in need of highly qualified applicants to fill the following positions:

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT (CPA)
RESTAURANT MANAGER
SALES EXECUTIVES
CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES
GRAPHIC ARTIST
SORTERS
MERCHANDISERS*
DRIVERS*

Candidates must meet the following minimum qualifications:

- At least 21 years old
- College graduate / *at least college level
- Computer literate
- Relevant experience required

Interested applicants may see us or send in their resumé and photo to:

The Human Resource Department
ESCALER & COMPANY, INC.
2nd Floor PCPD Building, 2332 Pasong Tamo Extension, 1637 Taguig City
Telephone numbers: 7573001 local 605 or 8438311, Fax number 8842661
Email addresses: jet.magbanua@gourmet.com.ph or mariton@piasi.com

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We are **ESCALER & COMPANY, INC.** (ECI), a conglomerate of companies involved in financial management, food production, restaurant operations, manpower pooling, entertainment talent management, call center operations and real estate.

We are known to be an organization that is motivated by a strong sense of social responsibility and driven by the pursuit of entrepreneurial spirit.

In line with the current expansion of our call center operations, we are in need of highly qualified applicants to fill the position of:

TELEMARKETER

- 21 years old and above
- Candidates must possess at least a bachelor's/college degree in any field
- Fluency in English required, ability to speak Spanish an advantage
- Preferably with experience in telemarketing or sales
- Computer literate
- Highly motivated, results-oriented, and team player

Interested applicants may see us or send in their resumé and photo to:

The Human Resource Department
ESCALER & COMPANY, INC.
2nd Floor PCPD Building, 2332 Pasong Tamo Extension, 1637 Taguig City
Telephone numbers: 7573001 local 605 or 8438311 Fax number 8842661
Email addresses: jet.magbanua@gourmet.com.ph or mariton@piasi.com

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CONCORDE INTERNATIONAL SERVICES
2nd Floor, APP Bldg., 2584 A. Bonifacio St., Bangkal, Makati City
Tel. Nos.: 889-4937 to 39 • 888-5624 • Fax No. 844-6683
POEA Lic. No. 517-LB-041904-R

urgently needs

15 CASHIERS
15 SALES ASSISTANTS

FOR ITS ACCREDITED PRINCIPAL
IN
BRUNEI
HUA HO DEPARTMENT STORE
Registration No. 9923563

QUALIFICATIONS:

A) 21-35 years old
B) Female
C) 5' above in height
D) College graduate or college level
E) At least 2 years experience in a big department store
F) Can speak/write English
G) Physically and mentally fit

For interested applicants: Please submit your 2 sets of resumé, Employment Certificate, Original Passport, 4 pcs. 2x2 pictures, Transcript of Records, Diploma & NBI.

FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT!

FERNA CORPORATION (The Food Ingredients Specialist) is currently in need of young, dynamic people to join our team. Below are the required qualifications for the following job openings:

TECHNICAL SERVICES STAFF-Baking Technician (CODE: TSD/S)
- Female, Male, single
- Not over 35 years old
- Degree in BS Food Technology or BS Food Nutrition & Dietetics or any related course, an advantage
- Has baking and culinary experience
- Has excellent oral and written communication skills
- Computer literate (Windows/MS-Office, a must)

TECHNICAL SERVICES STAFF (CODE: TSD/S)
- Female, Male, single
- Not over 35 years old
- Degree in BS Food Technology or BS Food Nutrition & Dietetics or any related course, an advantage
- Has ingredients formulation experience
- Has excellent oral and written communication skills

CREATIVE & CONCEPT STAFF (GRAPHIC ARTIST) (CODE: SMD/S)
- Male or Female, not over 35 years old
- College Graduate (preferably with Advertising or Fine Arts Degree)
- With excellent computer skills (MS Word, Excel, Powerpoint)
- Knowledgeable in freehand drawing and in graphic design software (MAC user preferred)
- Has experience in conceptualization and in execution of graphic design
- Has excellent oral and written communication skills
- With pleasing personality, resourceful, creative, hardworking and trustworthy

SALES STAFF (CODE: S/S)
- Female, single
- 25-35 years old
- College Graduate, preferably with experience in Sales or Marketing
- Has excellent oral and written communication skills
- Computer literate (Windows/MS-Office, a must)
- With pleasing personality, resourceful, hardworking and trustworthy

FERNA CORPORATION
The Food Ingredients Specialist!
16 Bernardo St., San Rafael Village, MM
(near Tondo, Manila)

Interested applicants may call at 2536136. Look for BETH.
You may fax your resumé with 2x2 photo and the indicated application code at 253-5920 or e-mail at ferna@skyinet.net

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JOIN THE TEAM

Our client is a leading supplier of software for information management and one of the world's largest independent software company, offering its tools and applications products, along with related consulting, education, and support services, in more than 145 countries around the world.

Our client is looking for candidates for a Financial/Operations Analyst role.

Operations Analyst

Responsibilities:

- Assist in the various financial aspects of the Consulting Services business including month-end financial processing
- Process and monitor all financial transactions of the business
- Assist in the generation of revenue and expense forecasts
- Track revenue, billing, and collection of projects
- Support adhoc management reporting requirements

Qualifications:

- Certified Public Accountant
- Minimum of 2 years experience in an accountant or financial analyst role
- Highly organized and process oriented
- Very familiar with desktop automation software and use of automated accounting systems
- Preferably with experience in an IT services organization
- Excellent English or Mandarin communication skills (written and oral) are required

PLEASE SEND YOUR RESUME TO:

BUSINESS TRENDS PHILIPPINES – A KELLY SERVICES COMPANY
1603 JOLLIBEE PLAZA, F. ORTIGAS JR. AVE (FORMERLY EMERALD AVE), ORTIGAS CENTER, PASIG CITY TEL: (632) 631-3109
E-MAIL: **execsearch@businesstrendsph.com** WEBSITE: **www.kellyservices.com**

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A PRESTIGIOUS UNIVERSITY IS URGENTLY IN NEED OF

NURSING CLINICAL INSTRUCTORS

- Holder of Master of Arts in Nursing (applicants with some M.A. units may also be considered)
- With 2 years clinical experience

Please submit your resume and letter of application to:

P.O. Box 4481 Manila

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jay c. designs

is in need of the following:

PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR

M/F; Engineering graduate; Preferably with 1 year experience; Proficient in the use of computer

ACCOUNTING STAFF

Female, Accounting graduate, Can work with minimum supervision; Computer literate, Preferably with experience

GRAPHIC ARTIST

Female; College Graduate, Preferably with experience; Knows Coreldraw 11 or Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop 7

Please submit resume with recent picture at:
JAY C DESIGNS, INC.
142 Road 3, Pagasa, Q C Tel No. 927-1776
5/F, Bldg A, SM Megamall Tel No. 635-6298
LGF, SM City North EDSA Tel No. 927-4150
email: jaycdesigns@pacific.net.ph

Media Monks Productions

A young and dynamic company engaged in publishing, marketing and media production is looking for aggressive and passionate individuals to be part of our team. Candidates must possess a hunger for learning and a thirst for challenges. She must be able to fully utilize limited resources to generate overwhelming returns. As part of a lean team, she must be personable and cooperative. She will be encouraged to reach beyond her perceived limits and directly contribute to the company's direction and growth.

Unit 1902-C West Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange Center, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
6871571 . 6875380 6873906 . 6343639 . media_monks@yahoo.com

Accounts and Ad Sales Executive

- Male / Female, not more than 35 yrs of age
- graduate of marketing or business related courses from a reputable school
- must have excellent presentation, negotiation and communication skills
- must be agressive and dynamic in meeting business targets (sales quotas)
- position will entail both field and office work
- previous experience in sales, advertising and/or marketing an advantage

Circulations & Administrative Asst.

Male / Female, not more than 30 yrs of age
graduate of marketing or business related courses from a reputable school
must be organized, flexible and able to work with minimum supervision
must be able to set-up and maintain an effective and efficient filing system
knowledgeable in Microsoft Office applications
must be an effective multi-tasker

Graphic Designer / Illustrator

Male / Female, not more than 35 yrs of age
graduate of fine arts or related course from a reputable school
proficient in graphic design software (i.e. Photoshop, Illustrator)
comfortable in both windows and macintosh OS environment
must possess excellent free hand drawing skills
must be creative, concept driven and an effective multi-tasker
knowledge in web-design (flash, html) an advantage

Property Specialists

- Male / Female, not more than 30 yrs of age
- graduate of marketing or business related course fr a reputable school
- must have excellent presentation, negotiation and communication skills
- must be agressive and dynamic in meeting business targets
- must have excellent field sales and telemarketing skills
- previous experience in property and real estate sales an advantage

Contractual Researchers

- Male / Female, not more than 30 yrs of age
- willing to conduct field research within the metro manila and nearby areas
- must have excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- background in research and survey methodologies a distinct advantage
- previous experience in market research, UAIs and FGDs an advantage

Accounting Clerk

- Male / Female, not more than 30 yrs of age
- a graduate of Finance/Accounting from a reputable school
- must be organized, trust-worthy and have an eye for detail
- previous experience in a similar position an advantage

Interested applicants may email or submit their resumes at the above address. Applicants for Graphic Designer must submit sample works

Be all that you can be...

CALL CENTER AGENTS
(Part-time/Full time; Inbound/Outbound)
College level / graduate of any course; eighteen (18) years old and above; ability to effectively communicate in English ; willing to work in varying shifts including graveyard; typing speed (minimum of 25wpm)

TECHNICAL SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES
College graduate of Computer Science, Computer Engineering or any related course; must have at least six (6) months experience as a TSR in a call center; eighteen (18) years old and above; ability to effectively communicate in English; willing to work in varying shifts including graveyard; typing speed (minimum of 25wpm)

ASSISTANT CENTER MANAGER
One (1) - Three (3) years managerial position in a call center; account management experience and client coordination skills preferably in an existing assistant manager position; should have experience handling at least one hundred (100) agents at a time; excellent verbal and written communication skills

SUPERVISORS / TEAM LEADERS
Must have at least six (6) months - one (1) year supervisory experience in a call center; must be an extrovert and have energetic personality; ability to multi-task; good time management skills

DATABASE PROGRAMMER
Very knowledgeable in Microsoft SQL Server, Crystal reports, MySQL, Visual Basic, Linux, Apache and Scripting languages; experienced in programming user interfaces and database processing under Web and Client-Server environment

EMPLOYEE RALATIONS ASSOCIATES
EMPLOYEE RELATIONS SPECIALISTS
Graduate of a Bachelor's / College in Human Resource Management or its equivalent; good understanding of the Philippine Labor Laws; must have at least three (3) years experience in the same field; with outstanding written and verbal communication skills; with events organization skills; with pleasing personality

TECHNICAL SUPPORT ENGINEERS
Basic Network (Data) and Telecoms Troubleshooting; familiarity with the Avaya switch; knowledgeable in Windows and Linux Server; basic troubleshooting on workstation hardware; familiarity with different services such as Mail, NTP, FTP, DHCP, active directory both under Windows and Linux; minimum of one (1) year experience in related field

All positions require excellent communication skills and knowledge in Microsoft Office and Internet Explorer

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We need :

Trainers
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Operation Managers
Assistant Operation Managers
Supervisors
Technical Support Representatives

UPCOMING JOB FAIRS

September 5
St. Paul University, Dumaguete City
September 6
Silliman University, Dumaguete City

September 16
Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Sta. Mesa-Manila

September 21-22
STI Job Fair, MegaTrade Hall 1-Megamall
September 23-24
Philippine Star Classifinder & Jobstreet, MegaTrade Hall 2-Megamall

September 22-23
I.T. and Call Center Job Fair, Iligan City

APPLY in BUSINESS ATTIRE
Bring a copy of your resume at the:

RECRUITMENT DEPARTMENT
4/F Octagon Building, San Miguel Ave.,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Recruiting schedule
Monday - Friday (except holidays)
8:00am - 5:00pm

Hotline: (02) 632-9000 Ext 408, 409 & 410 www.teleperformance.ph careers@teleperformance.ph (please indicate the position in the subject field) http://www.jobstreet.com/ph/teleperformance.htm

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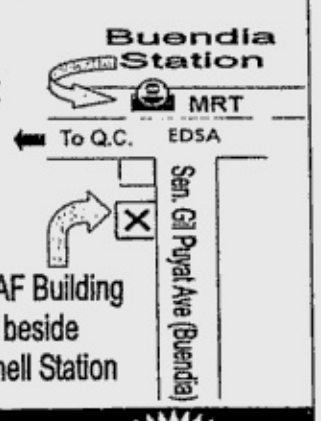
Call or (02) 895-9944 or
Text for (02) 896-5808
more info. : 0921-682-0590



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Dr. Victor R. Potenciano Medical Center (formerly Polymedic General Hospital) is accepting applications for the **RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAM** of the following Clinical Departments: **Surgery, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics,** and **Obstetrics & Gynecology.**

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For Inquiries, Please Call:
VRPMC Human Resource Department
531-4911 local 350

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TOP CALIBER SALESMAN

- Male/Female, 25-35 years, with pleasing personality
- Preferably B.S. Chem/Chemical Engineer / or inline with Science.
- Preferably 2-3 years selling experience of Chemicals for Cleaning and Sanitation.
- Graduate from a reputable College / University.
- Customer oriented, aggressive, matured, good working attitude with excellent communication skills and can handle work pressure.
- With driving skills and valid drivers license, willing to be assigned in different provinces.

Apply personally or mail your application to:
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c/o HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT DEPT.
001 Duhat St., Antonio Subd.,
Dalandanan, Valenzuela City
and submit your RESUME w/ 2x2 picture, Transcript of Record, Employment Certificate,
E-mail: joespublish@pacific.net.ph

BUSINESS GROWTH RECRUIT, INC.
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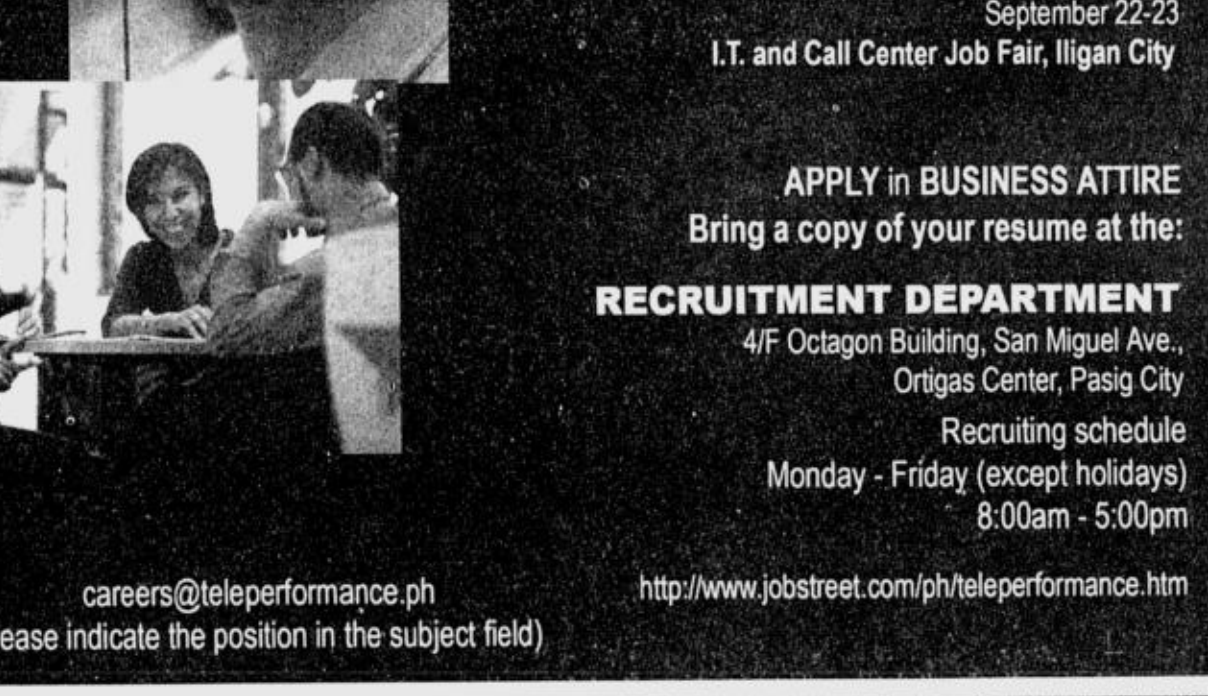

Sales Managers

Candidate must possess the following:

- **30-45 years old, graduates of top universities in the country**
- **Successful professionals earning at least P40,000 a month**
- **Must have a proven track record in sales**
- **Must have strong management and recruitment skills**
- **Self-starter, aggressive, and an effective leader**

Build your career with one of Fortune Magazine's Most Admired Companies in the World.

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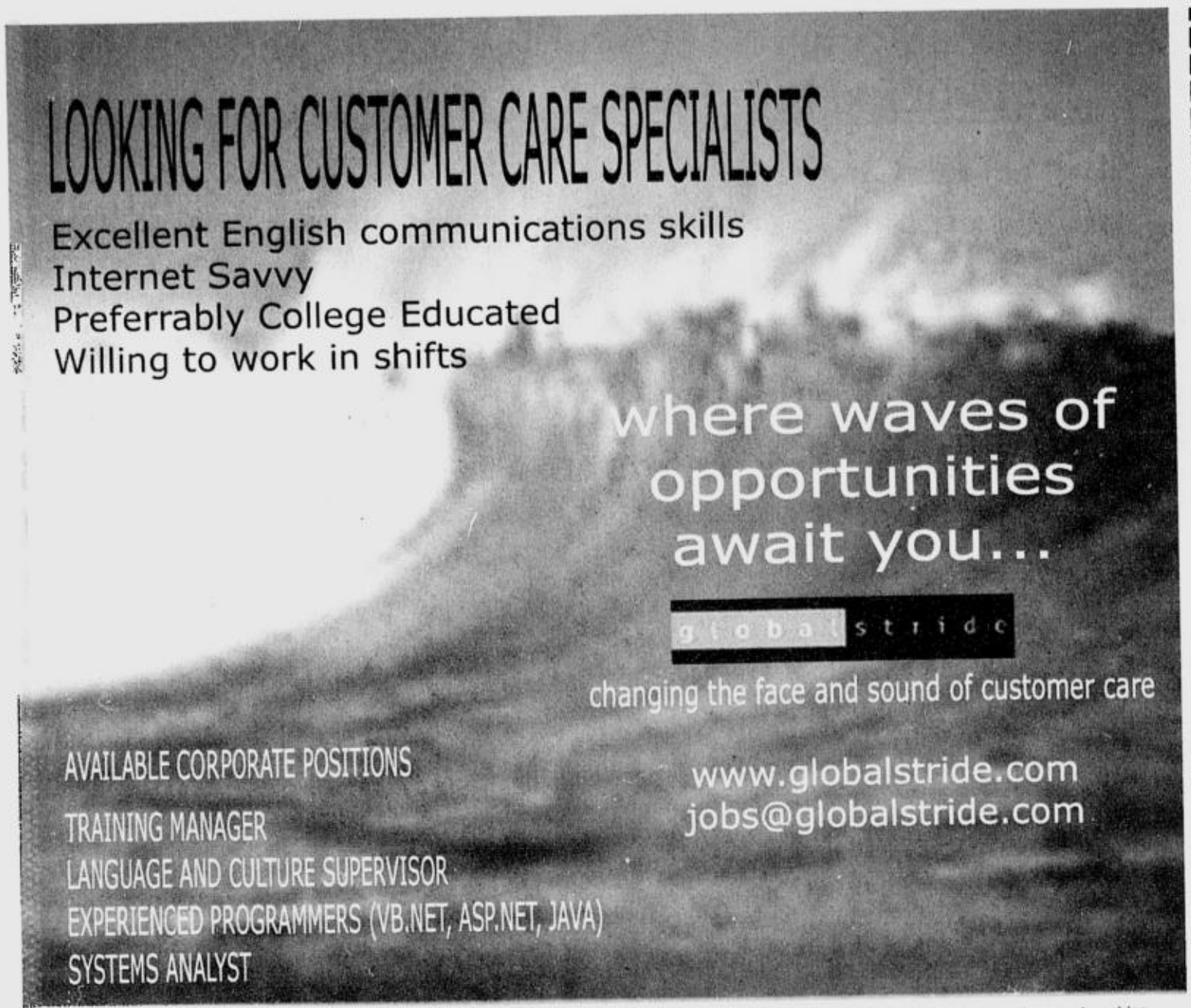
Email to: **ksearch_bgri@yahoo.com Fax: 893-6259**
For inquiries, you may call 840-4895 and look for Christine Bañares.

TECHNICAL



is a premier outsourced customer service solutions provider. Through a series of operational and technology partnerships with leading companies worldwide, GLOBALSTRIDE is uniquely positioned to handle customer service needs for a full range of contact channels, technologies and languages.

Visit us Mondays thru Fridays, from 9am-6pm
Please bring your resume and transcript of records for IMMEDIATE PROCESSING OF APPLICATION.
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Submit your resumé with picture to Ms. Sally Sarza
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Cel. Nos. 0919-2104200 / 0919-4312107
Pls. email your resumé at: cmaleg@yahoo.com

Please mail photocopies of your documents
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4 pcs. PASSPORT SIZED PICS.

NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED

Our company is engaged in the distribution and marketing of pharmaceutical products and leading consumer products. We are inviting applicants for the position of:

BRAND MANAGER

to join our Marketing Team, with the following qualifications:

1. College graduate, preferably Marketing major
2. At least five years work experience as Brand Manager or Product Manager
3. Superior knowledge of the marketing mix elements such as product development, promotion, pricing, and advertising
4. Detail oriented and thinks strategically and tactically
5. Highly-organized, proactive and results-oriented
6. Hard-working and willing to devote extra time and effort when necessary
7. Sound judgment, strong analytical skills and good decision-making abilities
8. Excellent interpersonal/people-handling skills, a team player and can put his/her ideas across with ease
9. Good communication skills both oral and written
10. Computer literate
11. Impeccable integrity

Send resumé and latest 1x1 photo to:

P.O. Box 2338 Manila

SECOSANA

URGENT **Hiring!**

PAYROLL CLERK
- Graduate of Accountancy or any related courses.
- Female, not more than 25 years old.
- Has knowledge and experience in payroll is an advantage.
- Responsible, honest, and hardworking.

GRAPHIC ARTIST
- Graduate of Fine Arts or any Art related courses.
- Female/Single, not more than 25 years old.
- Knowledgeable in Adobe Photoshop, Corel Draw and other computer software.

BAG PATTERN MAKER
- Male, Female, not more than 30 years old.
- Knowledgeable in bag pattern making or has related experience.

SALES PROMODIZER/STOCKMAN
- Male/Female, 18-25 years old.
- At least High School graduate, and with pleasing personality.
- Preferably with previous sales experience.
- To be assigned in Las Pinas, Taguig, Dasmarinas, and Pampanga

Bring resume with recent 2x2 picture
(MON.- FRI. 9:00-3:00 P.M.)
2159 JOSE ABAD SANTOS AVE. COR BATANGAS ST. TONDO, MANILA

CUERVO APPRAISERS, INC
PROPERTY, MACHINERY & BUSINESS VALUERS

25 YEARS

*** Positions for **CEBU, DAVAO** and **ILOILO** are now available.***

The leading valuation company in the Philippines is in need of:

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY – Code: SEC
With at least 3 years experience in secretarial work; with pleasing personality and excellent command of English, both oral and written; computer literate; college graduate; not more than 35 years of age.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS – Code: BDO
With at least 3 years strong marketing and selling experience; with access to top management executives; must have excellent command of English, both oral and written.

JUNIOR and SENIOR APPRAISERS – Code: APR
Must be licensed CE, ME or EE graduate from any reputable school; with at least 3 years experience in real estate/plant and machinery appraisal; must be computer literate; and ability to express oneself in written English is a must.

HUMAN RELATIONS MANAGER – Code: HRM
With at least 3 years experience in HR management for a company with over 50 personnel; must have a good command of English, both oral and written; must be computer literate.

Interested individuals may submit their resumes with photo not later than 15 September 2005 either through email at info@cuervoappraisers.com or hand-delivered to:

CUERVO APPRAISERS, INC.
2/F, Padilla Bldg., F.Ortigas, Jr. Road (formerly Emerald Ave.)
Ortigas Center, 1605 Pasig City, Metro Manila
Tel. No. 631-1645; Fax No. 631-3144
www.cuervoappraisers.com

IMPORTANT: Please indicate the position code on the subject line of your covering letter.

10,000 Call Center Agents
There are more than 10,000 call center jobs BUT there are more than 200,000 applicants

The Competition is TOUGH ... PREPARE NOW!

Increase your chances to get hired by 500%. BEAT other applicants!
- We have helped our grads get-in ICT, Teletech, Epixtar, & more

Enroll in our 40-hour Call Center Training Program includes: American Accent - English Communication - Call Handling - INSIDE info on employment tests
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Unit 511 President Tower 81 Timog, QC Call 448-5024

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

Administrative Assistant
- Good written & Oral Communication Skills
- Highly organized, with Good Administrative Skills
- Must be computer literate
- Female, 24-35 years old, at least 3 years experience

Company Driver
- Male, 21-35 years old
- With at least 5 years experience working for an executive
- Knowledgeable in Makati and Metro Manila areas.

Qualified candidates for administrative assistants are requested to send their resumés with picture via mail or e-mail. Company driver applicants are requested to apply in person at:
FFE International, Inc.
Unit E, Sime Darby Building
Ayala Avenue corner Mahogany Street,
1255 Makati City (beside Wine Depot)
Email. ffe_intl@pacific.net.ph

BE PART OF A DYNAMIC TEAM –
Widescope IMC an advertising agency with diverse range of clients is looking for

GRAPHIC ARTIST

Female, single, 21 to 28 years old. Graduate of Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts or related course. With relevant experience in the same capacity. Proficient in Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator. Must be creative, dynamic, artistic and result oriented individual - with pleasing personality. Team player, mature and can work with minimum supervision.

Bring Portfolio or Sample Artworks from
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An Integrated Marketing Communications Company

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Saint Josemaria Escriva Drive
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FT

FINANCIAL TIMES

The Financial Times, one of the world's top sources of business news and information, urgently requires additional staff for its Manila customer service and accounts departments. The ideal candidates should meet the criteria enumerated below and must be able to start immediately. Attractive remuneration package awaits those who will be hired.

TELEMARKETERS

- University graduate or its equivalent
- At least two years of telemarketing and customer service experience for a multinational company
- Proficient in liaising with existing clients and developing new customers
- Solid experience in handling customer complaints
- Excellent command of both oral and written English
- Knowledge of Chinese a distinct advantage
- Good PC and software skills
- Strong interpersonal skills, proactive, self-motivated and willing to learn
- Willing and able to work on contract employment for one to three months

CREDIT CONTROLLER

- University graduate or its equivalent
- At least two years of credit control experience for a multinational company
- Excellent command of both oral and written English
- Self-motivated and able to work independently to meet deadlines
- Proficient in MS Word and MS Excel
- Experience in a publishing or media environment an advantage
- Working knowledge of SUN and Archimedes preferred but not required

Interested applicants should post their detailed resume, cover letter and most recent photograph to **The HR and Administration Manager** at the address below not later than September 9, 2005:

Financial Times Philippines
42nd Floor, Philamlife Tower,
8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

Visit our website www.ft.com

3rd-8th Floor Ready for Occupancy by December 2005

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The ONLY Luxury Condominium
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MAKE BIG MONEY FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS

YOU CAN BE PART OF OUR ELITE GROUP

Your take home income for one transaction
will buy you a brand new car and more!
When accepted, we will jump start your selling career
by fully supporting you on your first 3 transactions.
Just bring your qualified clients to us.

You have to CALL US (Not Text), Monday to Wednesday only, to be ONE of the Twenty (20) to be accepted to our Business Opportunity Presentation on September 8 (Thursday), 8:00 am-12 noon at the Mactan Function Room, Edsa Shangri-la Hotel.
Have a ready resume with 2 x 2 picture.
Telephone Numbers: 0917-622-1744 (Mr. Ping Tan) / 0917-807-4594 (Ms. Lyn Valderama)

PRISM
PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION FOR FAMILY PLANNING

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The Private Sector Mobilization for Family Planning (PRISM), is seeking for **Family Planning Coordinators** for the following areas: National Capital Region (NCR), Pampanga, Baguio City, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro City and General Santos City.

The overall scope of this position will be valuable to PRISM's goal of developing the motivation and capacity of the private sector to be involved in family planning, specifically in implementing family planning in the workplace, developing the market for products and expanding private practice for family planning services.

Qualifications:

- College degree holder with post-graduate study an advantage
- Familiarity with the area and its political infrastructures
- Familiarity with the Family Planning Program and Contraceptive Self-Reliance Initiative Program
- Exposure to NGO FP programs an advantage
- Appreciation of family planning program success factors
- Ability to develop good working relationships with various sectors and associations
- Work experience includes positions requiring leadership skills, as well as integrative and strategic thinking
- Residence in the area is preferred.

Interested applicants should e-mail their application letter (indicating the preferred project area) and CV at jobs@prism.org.ph or send to:

PRISM Office, 23rd Floor, Wynsum Corporate Plaza
22 F. Ortigas Jr. Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Deadline for the submission of application: 16 September 2005.

GROW with us!
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a member of the German STEAG AG group

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The newest partner in the Philippines private power generation industry is seeking highly qualified candidates for the **Mindanao 210MW Coal-fired Power Plant**

LEAD TURBINE ENGINEER
(Engineering and Maintenance)
- A degree in BSME with a valid RME / PME professional license
- Extensive experience in the engineering, maintenance, control and optimization of steam turbines.
- Must possess supervisory and management experience i.e. team management, staff development etc.

STEAM TURBINE FOREMAN
(Maintenance)
- A Registered Mechanical Engineer
- Extensive hands-on experience of maintenance, control and optimization of the steam turbine and condenser plus its auxiliary equipment, cooling water system and all associated processes.

INSTRUMENTATION & CONTROL FOREMAN/ TECHNICIANS
(Maintenance)
- Graduate of BS Electrical/ Electronics or Instrumentation & Control Engineering with a professional license
- With extensive knowledge of power plant systems, processes and components including electronic digital and electro-hydraulic equipment used to control, monitor and operate the systems
- Skill in operating precision measurement and calibration equipment
- Experience in Siemens Teleperm XP, Allen Bradley PLC is an advantage.
- Must possess supervisory and management experience i.e. team management, staff development etc.

ELECTRICAL TECHNICIANS
(Maintenance)
- A Registered Electrical Engineer
- Extensive hands-on experience of electrical power systems and their maintenance, high/medium voltage systems, generator, transformer, motors, sub-stations and 138 kV transmission lines

PERFORMANCE / EFFICIENCY ENGINEER
(Technical Office)
- Registered Electrical or Mechanical Engineer
- Must have knowledge of plant performance tests, equipment efficiency testing and optimization, start-up and plant tests), equipment monitoring
- Preferably have exposure/experience with IPP (Independent power producers)
- Must have knowledge of quality control (ASME, API, ANSI codes)

CONTROL ROOM OPERATORS
(Operations)
- Graduate of BSEE or BSME with a valid professional license
- Extensive experience in unit start up, load changes and shut down, power plant operations optimization and monitoring
- Preferably with DCS experience

WATER TREATMENT OPERATORS
(Operations)
- Registered Mechanical or Chemical Engineer
- Extensive experience in water treatment plant pre-start checks, complete routine check lists, performance readings, and monitoring.
- Must have the capability to define / identify problems and perform the necessary action

COAL HANDLING FOREMAN
(Operations)
- A Registered Mechanical Engineer
- Extensive hands-on experience of operation, maintenance, control and optimization of the coal handling plant.
- Knowledgeable on coal stockpiling, unloading, reclaiming procedure, coal yard utilization, coal movement and spacing

Requirements:
Must have at least 5-10 years related work experience preferably gained from a coal-fired or thermal power plant; Possess excellent organizational skills;
Preferably between 25-45 years of age: Fluent in English

Interested applicants may submit their CVs to:
STEAG State Power Inc.
The HR Manager
Honasan Hall, PHIVIDEC Compound
Sta. Cruz, Tagoloan
Misamis Oriental 9001 or
Via e-mail: **careers@steagstatepower.com**

URGENTLY NEEDS!!!
COLLEGE GRADUATES OF ANY COURSE

- Age 20-38 years old
- Male/Female, Single/Married
- Must have planning and organizing skills
- Can operate in a multi-tasked work atmosphere
- Hardworking and can work w/ minimum supervision

Interviewing of applicants will be from
September 5-10, 2005 from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday
Note: Newly graduates are welcome to apply
Apply in person at:
6th Flr. 128 Vernida IV Bldg.,
L.P. Leviste St., Salcedo Village
Makati City
(back of PBCom Tower in front of Makati Sports Club)
Look for: Mr. Noel Isidro for Interview
"Clip this ad for Immediate Interview"
"First Come, First Serve Basis"

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DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
Pasig Boulevard, Bgy. Pineda
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The Department of Surgery is now accepting applicants for the Surgical Residency Training Program (4-year) for the academic year 2006. Interested doctors can inquire / apply in person with his resumé, and other available academic papers.

Telephone numbers: 0917-8320057
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Look for Dr. Jose Roberto Q. Melendres

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MANAGERIAL

Let's Study in Japan

From the People of Japan

Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) in the Republic of the Philippines 2006-2007

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has started the implementation of the Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) through the assistance of the Government of Japan for Japanese Fiscal Year 2002.

The objective of the JDS Project is to provide Philippine nationals with opportunities for obtaining master's degree at the Japanese universities in order to support human resource development policy of the Government of the Philippines, and eventually to extend and strengthen the bilateral relationship between the Philippines and Japan.

The JDS Project targets young people in public sector who are expected to play leadership roles in the Philippines and people in private sector who are expected to contribute to the development of the Philippines market economy.

Degree to be obtained and Field of Study

1. Degree: Master's Degree only (1.5-2.5 years courses)
2. Field of Study (number of scholars to be accepted)
   - *2-1. (for public sector)*
     - -Public Administration (10 persons)
     - -Economics (8 persons)
     - -Information and Communication Technology (3 persons)
     - -Business Administration (2 persons)
   - *2-2. (for public and private sectors)*
     - -Business Administration (2 persons)
3. Language of Instruction predominantly English

Qualification Requirements:

1) Nationality: Filipino
2) Age: Below 40 years old as of April 1, 2006. (Those who were born on/after April 2, 1966)
3) Academic background: Applicants should have bachelor's degree relevant to the target fields of study, except for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) field that requires bachelor's degree in ICT or equivalent is required.
4) Working experience: At least 2 years of working experience at the time of nomination and presently employed
5) English language proficiency level: IELTS 6.0 TOEFL 550 (CBT 213) or above is required
6) Military personnel are not eligible to apply
7) Currently or in the past, those who have been awarded foreign scholarship for Master's degree are not eligible to apply.
8) Applicants should be physically and mentally fit to complete the course within its duration
9) Successful candidates shall attend full-time preparatory Japanese language training in Manila for 2 months from April 2006

Application

-Applicants must complete Application Documents.
-Application Documents are distributed at
-JICE JDS Project Office, or
-can be downloaded at http://sv2.jice.org/jds/

Selection Procedures

-The First Selection
Submitted application forms will be examined by Japanese University Professors in Japan.

-SCS Interview
Successful candidates of the first selection process should undergo SCS Interview.

-The Second Selection
-Applicants will sit for English proficiency test in early January 2006.
-Applicants will be required to sit for basic mathematics test at this stage.

-The Third Selection
-Applicants will undergo the Technical Interview by Japanese University Professors in early February 2006.

-The Fourth Selection
-Applicants will undergo the Comprehensive Interview in late February 2006
-Applicants will be required to undergo a medical examination at a designated hospital before this stage.

Deadline for Application

No later than 16:30hrs on October 21, 2005
Late submission and incomplete application documents shall not be accepted.

Where to submit

Application forms and required documents must be submitted either personally, by mail, or courier to JICE JDS Project Office.

For further information, please contact:

JICE JDS Project Office in the Philippines
(Mon to Fri, 09:00 to 12:00, 13:30 to 16:30)
*Unit 2-F1, Island Plaza Salcedo, L.P. Leviste Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City, Philippines
*TEL: 02-7533261
*Official Web Site: http://sv2.jice.org/jds/

Executing Agency

National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA- Special Committee on Scholarships)

LausGroup

A Passion for Cars & Customer Care

We are a Group based in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga having diverse interests in vehicle dealerships, maintenance and services, non-life insurance, retail financing, mass media, restaurant operations and real estate development.

As part of our ongoing organizational strengthening program, we currently seek professionals who are residents of Pampanga, Quezon City and other nearby areas to fill-up our vacancy for one (1):

CORPORATE PLANNING and MIS MANAGER

Key Job Functions:

- Provides basic technical support functions to the Office of the Chairman/CEO;
- Acts as Special Assistant to the Chairman by providing assistance in preparing project papers, creating ad hoc committees and monitoring status of activities of the committees for reporting to the Chairman;
- Initiates and oversees the business planning process for the entire Group and ensures that the Annual Business Plan for each company conforms to the Chairman's overall direction;
- Enhances the planning and budgetary control and monitoring system;
- Defines the management information requirements for the CEO and ensures that all work units are able to provide such reports;
- Monitors status of identified projects/assignments of the officers/ managers and provides the CEO critical inputs and recommendations as basis for decisions;
- Undertakes business process review and recommends systems improvements for implementation; and
- Performs special assignments and tasks that may be assigned by the Chairman

Basic Qualifications

- A graduate of Accountancy or any business course from a reputable university, preferably with honors and a student leader;
- Masteral Degree in Business Administration is a must;
- With at least 10 years relevant experience in the functions cited above.
- Self-propelled individual, a committed and dedicated worker who has grown from the ranks;
- Proven leadership and managerial skills gained from past professional experience
- Proficient in both oral and written communications; and
- An independent worker

Hired candidates may expect competitive compensation package as well as unlimited opportunities for career and personal development.
Qualified candidates may email application letter to the address below or submit it personally with the following: curriculum vitae, recent 2x2 photo, transcript of records & other pertinent credentials **NOT LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 10, 2005** to:

The HR Manager
LausGroup Corporate Center
Human Resources Management Department
San Fernando- Olongapo Highway
City of San Fernando (P)
Tel: (045) 963-1111 loc 561/ Telefax (045) 961-5618
Mobile No. : (0928) 774-2945
E-mail add: hrmd@lausgroup.com.ph

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PETRON

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The country's leading oil refining & marketing company committed to excellence, professionalism, integrity, and fairness

Invites empowered & dynamic professionals for the following positions:

AREA SALES EXECUTIVE

- Bachelor's/College Degree in any field, preferably Engineering graduates
- At least 3 years working experience in sales
- With strong inclination towards sales and marketing
- Excellent oral and written communications skills
- Knows how to drive
- Willing to be assigned in the provinces

PLANNING ANALYST

- Bachelor's Degree in Finance, Economics, Accountancy or Engineering
- With Master's degree in Business Administration or Finance is an advantage
- At least 3 years experience in corporate planning, specifically in the development and/or preparation of financial forecasts and corporate performance management systems & reports
- Excellent oral and written communications skills
- Belongs to top 10% of class

The candidate must be knowledgeable in Windows-based software applications, must be self-directed to exercise authority and decision, is adaptable to the changing demands of the times and must possess a strong entrepreneurial spirit and team orientation.
Qualified applicants may send or mail their resume, Transcript of Records & 2x2 photo to the
The Recruitment Associate
Petron MegaPlaza, 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. 1200 Makati City
Or e-mail their resume to: recruit@petron.com
Indicate in subject line: "Position Applied For"

Jardine Davies

Jardine Technical Services (JTS) is part of the highly respected Jardine Engineering Group providing a range of Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning services to major local and international companies.

Fast establishing itself as the market leader with an enviable reputation for quality and service, JTS is embarking on a major expansion program. As part of that, it is upgrading support services and now requires a:

SENIOR FINANCE MANAGER

The appointee will report to the CEO and have specific responsibility for:

- Managing the Finance and Administrative Support Teams
- Overseeing financial & management reporting, treasury, tax & insurance
- Leading the management team in analysis of financial and operating reports

The specific requirements are for a person with:

- Recognised financial qualifications
- At least five years experience in a senior finance role with a multinational or large local company
- Experience in Construction or Engineering businesses
- Experiences in working closely with people across all levels

Age range of applicants should be between 30 – 40. Personal qualities of independence, dynamism and resourcefulness are critical as is a high level of computer literacy.

The opportunities for career development within the Jardine Group are substantial and the remuneration and benefits package is excellent. Regular performance reviews, feedback and structured training support our people development programs.

Please mail or email your resumé (including a recent 2" x 2" photo plus current salary details) to:

Ms. Nanette Poblador
Jardine Davies
222 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue
Makati City
E-mail: **HRD@jdigroup.com**

Only applicants selected for interview will be contacted.

Alltech ranks among the top 20 animal health companies in the world, and of these is the one experiencing the fastest organic growth.

The company has followed a successful global strategy while at the same time having a strong local presence. Alltech was incorporated in the Philippines in October 1998. Alltech Philippines continuously achieves its goals as a committed provider of natural products, safe for animals, consumers, and environment.

Expanding rapidly, Alltech Philippines will soon open regional offices in Cebu City and Davao City and expands its team in the National Capital Region.

Alltech invites you to its fast-growing team with positions in this advertisement.

A career at Alltech offers new, exciting and challenging opportunities. We have grown from a two-man operation to a company that now employs over 1500. Today, we are in the process becoming one of the leading animal health companies in the world.

Our employees are our most valuable assets. We provide constant training and development to help them keep us at the cutting edge of our industry. We work hard and achieve great satisfaction by seeing the results.

At Alltech, we provide a platform for you to be innovative, passionate, pioneering and successful.

Select your area of interest and submit your updated resume with cover letter addressed to Ms. Amie Hernandez, Office Manager.
Email: amhernandez@alltech.com or fax: 807-1854.

TECHNICAL SALES MANAGER (FOR LUZON, VISAYAS AND MINDANAO)

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:
- Generating sales in accordance to set targets and objectives
- Providing technical and marketing support, and customer service

THE IDEAL CANDIDATE MUST HAVE:
- A degree in Veterinary Medicine or Animal Science or Husbandry or any related course
- Proficiency in Microsoft® Windows® programs (PowerPoint, Excel, Word, etc.)
- Excellent oral and written English communication skills
- Proven sales record and multi-task management skills

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:
- Adapting existing marketing strategies to the Philippine marketplace
- Interfacing between the international sales and marketing teams
- Working directly with customers to create partnerships
- To investigate appropriate marketing opportunities within the country
- Market study and analysis; and business development strategy

THE IDEAL CANDIDATE MUST HAVE:
- Bachelor Degree or higher in Marketing or Business
- 5 years work experience
- Excellent oral and written English communication skills
- Proven and effective multi-task management skills
- Proficiency in Microsoft® Windows® programs (PowerPoint, Excel, Word, etc.)

OFFICE ASSISTANT (FOR CEBU AND DAVAO OFFICES)

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:
- Assist in the daily operations of the Alltech office in the areas of administration/human resources, sales and marketing, logistics and accounting.
- To be able to complement in the smooth flow of daily operation procedures of the company based on company guidelines.

THE IDEAL CANDIDATE MUST HAVE:
- Bachelor Degree in a business course with accounting background
- 3 years work experience
- Excellent oral and written English communication skills
- Proven and effective multi-task management skills
- Proficiency in Microsoft® Windows® programs (PowerPoint, Excel, Word, etc.)

We will only respond to qualified candidates.

Alltech®
...naturally

We need dynamic and responsible individuals for the following positions:

SALES MANAGER
- Graduate of a 4-yr course, pref. Eng'g. or Mktg. major
- Minimum 2 yrs experience as Sales Manager
- Team leader w/ exc. communication & organizational skills
- Can implement a suitable program to effectively achieve sales goals
- Computer proficient; knows sales forecasting & monitoring

SALES ENGINEERS
- BS C.E./G.E. grad. or undergrad.; w/ or w/o sales exp.
- Computer literate; good communication skills
- Willing to travel; w/ valid Driver's License

MARKETING COORDINATOR
(FOR: QUEZON CITY OFFICE)
- BS Marketing major w/ or w/o experience
- Preferably single, not more than 30 yrs old
- Comp. prof.; exc. communication & organizational skills

SALES REPRESENTATIVES
(FOR: QUEZON CITY OFFICE)
- Grad. of BS Mktg./Mgt. or any related course
- To handle sales of our motorcycle/bicycle products
- Preferably w/ one year exp. in sales & collection
- Good presentation skills

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR
(FOR: QUEZON CITY OFFICE)
- Female; pref. single, not more than 30 yrs old
- BS Accounting graduate
- 2 yrs work exp. especially in A/R & Stock Inventory

ACCOUNTING CLERK
(FOR: QUEZON CITY OFFICE)
- Female; college grad. w/ at least 12 Accounting units

STORE SUPERVISOR
(For a soon-to-open Japanese restaurant franchise in Manila)
- Graduate of HRM or any 4-yr course
- Between 22-35 yrs old
- Minimum 2 yrs supervisory exp. in a restaurant
- Excellent customer service skills

Please submit your comprehensive resume with latest photo to:
Admin. Department Head
1800 A. Mendoza St., Sampaloc, Manila 1008
or email us at vic_smi@philonline.com.ph

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www.dls-csb.edu.ph

School of Design & Arts

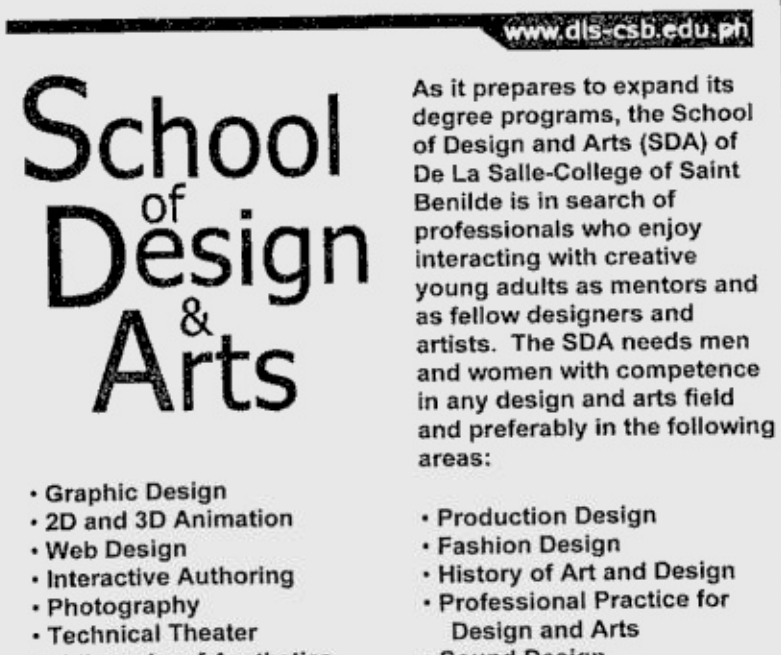
As it prepares to expand its degree programs, the School of Design and Arts (SDA) of De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde is in search of professionals who enjoy interacting with creative young adults as mentors and as fellow designers and artists. The SDA needs men and women with competence in any design and arts field and preferably in the following areas:

- Graphic Design
- 2D and 3D Animation
- Web Design
- Interactive Authoring
- Photography
- Technical Theater
- Philosophy of Aesthetics
- Production Design
- Fashion Design
- History of Art and Design
- Professional Practice for Design and Arts
- Sound Design

Qualifications: A Bachelors Degree from a design and arts field, preferably with a Masters degree plus a minimum of three years related professional experience. Contacted applicants should present a portfolio of works and be available for a teaching demonstration.

Please send an application letter, curriculum vitae, copy of transcript of records and 3 pcs. 2x2 photos to:

Tet Lamarca
School of Design and Arts
De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde
2544 Taft Avenue, Manila
Telefax: 5267441 loc. 181 / 123
lamarcat@dls-csb.edu.ph



The new state of the art SDA building along P. Ocampo St. (formerly Vito Cruz) will open in 2006.

URGENT!!!

We are a fast growing Company and we have an immediate need for the following personnel:

AIRCON DIV MGR - Mech'l/Elect'l Engr
Min 15 yrs experience in operations and/or maintenance of large centralized airconditioning system

WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT DIV MGR- Mech'l/Elect'l Engr
Min 15 yrs experience in operations and/or maintenance of Waste Water Treatment Plants and/or Process Plants

MAINTENANCE MGR - Mech'l/Elect'l Engr
Min 10 yrs experience in operations and/or maintenance of airconditioning equipment

PLANT OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR - Mech'l/Elect'l Engr
Min 7 yrs experience in operations and/or airconditioning plants, Waste Water Treatment Plants or Process Plants

OPERATIONS COORDINATOR
Min 10 yrs experience coordinating maintenance & operations activities

TRADESMEN
Qualified tradesmen = Mechanics, Plant Operators, Welders, Electricians, Pipefitters, Sheet Metal Workers

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR BIO-DATA WITH RECENT ID PIC. TO:

ENVIROKONSTRUK & DEV. CORP.
2/F RT & SONS BLDG., #14 ECONOMIA ST., BAGUMBAYAN, QUEZON CITY.
TEL. #437-5297 FAX #438-6776
email: edc@ebasph.com.ph

WANTED

Accounting Staff
Female
Single, at least 21 yrs. of age
BSA Graduate in reputable school
With at least 1yr. of experience

Documentation Staff
Male / Female
Single, at least 21 yrs. of age
Graduate of any 4 year course
Preferably w/ experience in Manning Agency

MARC-CCI Shipping Mngt. Inc.
Look for Ms Danthel or Ms. Joan
At 3rd flr,. Forex Bldg. 1963 San Marcelino St. Cor. Quirino Ave.
Malate, Manila
Tel nos. 5360831/5268770

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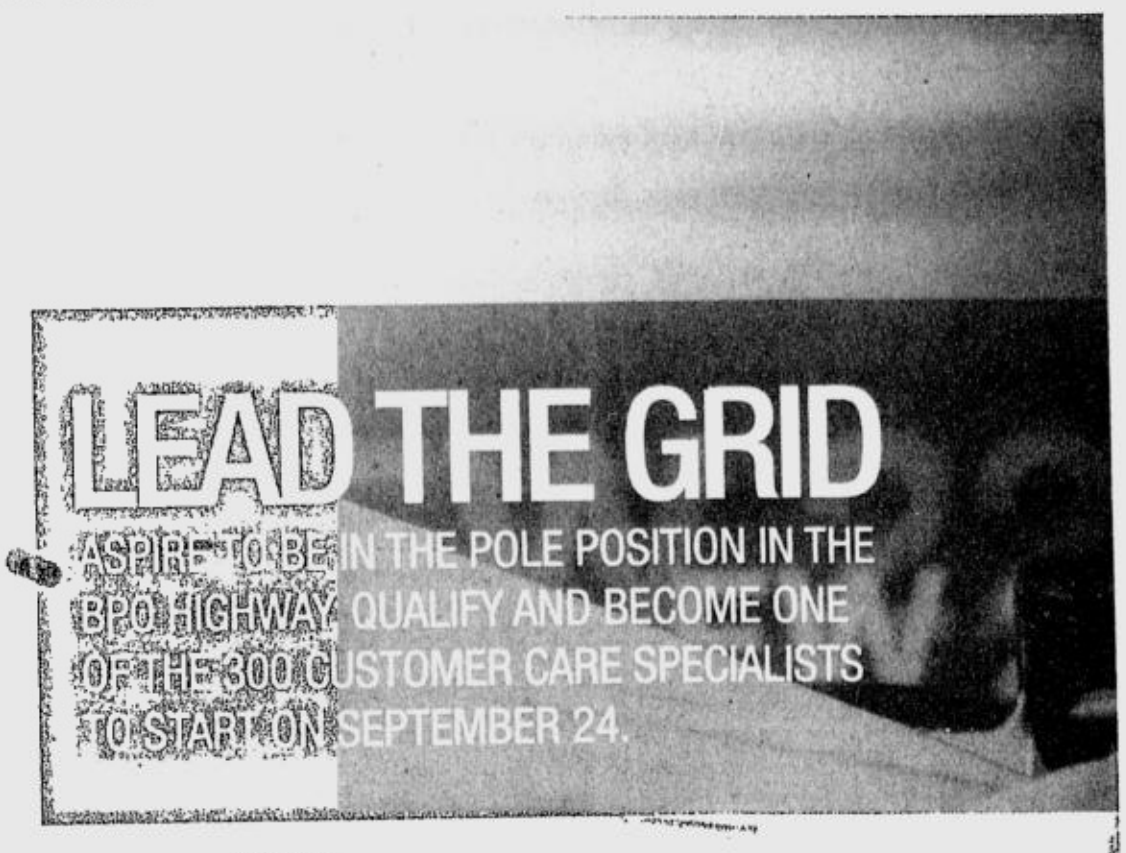

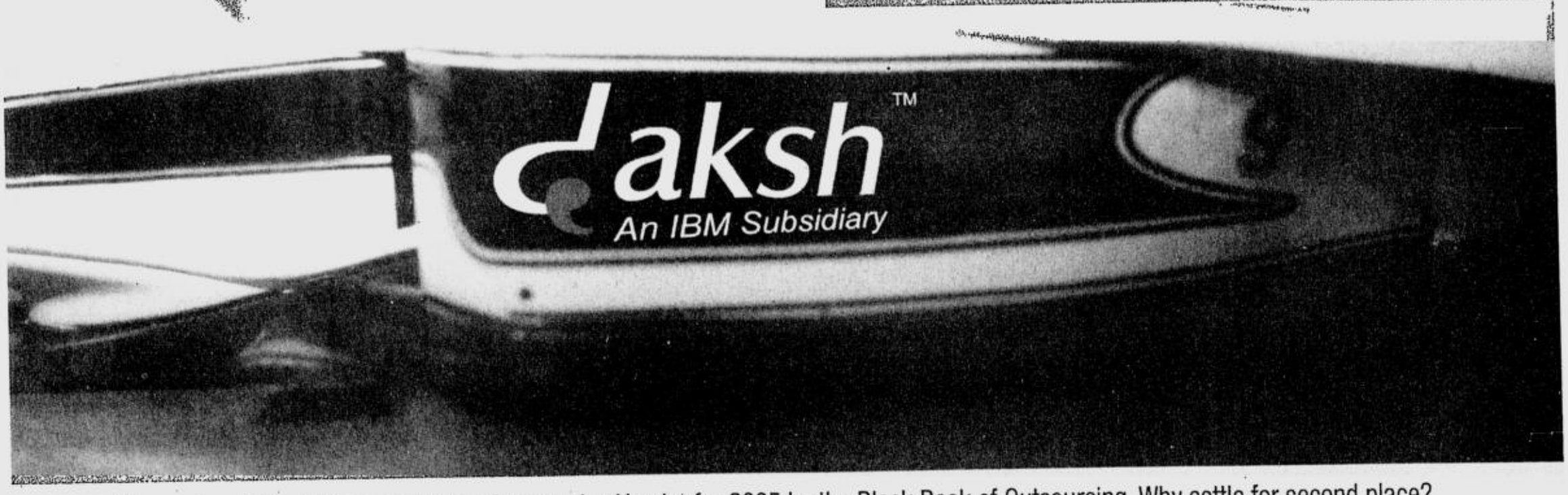

We are the #1 Best Managed Global Outsourcing Vendor for 2005 by the Black Book of Outsourcing. Why settle for second place?

Catch us at our Career Tour

IBM Daksh Career Tour

32/F PBCom Tower
Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Open House
Mondays - Friday 9 AM - 8 PM
Saturdays 9 AM - 6 PM

Semestral Job Fair 2005
Adamson University
Little Theater (SV Building)
September 7
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Peso Olongapo Job Fair
Rizal Triangle Multi Purpose Center,
Olongapo City Hall Complex,
Olongapo City
September 9-10
10 AM - 5 PM

Opportunities at IBM Daksh

Customer Care Specialists

Responsible for providing excellent customer service and inbound sales by phone on a 24x7 basis

Job Requirements:
- Graduate of any Bachelor's Degree
- Must possess excellent oral and written English communication skills
- Must be proficient in the use of computers and various applications
- Willing to work in a fast-paced, dynamic, and schedule shifting environment is a must
- Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply.
- Call Center experience is an advantage.

Support and Leadership Posts

Operations Managers
Voice and Accent Trainers
Team Leaders
Workforce Management Specialists
Workforce Management Leaders
Quality Assurance Leaders
Quality Assurance Specialists
Technical Support Engineer
Implementation Manager
Site Operations Manager - Automotive Account

Call Center experience is a must for support and leadership posts

1-Day recruitment process for all CCS applicants!
You may reach us at:
81-DAKSH (32574)

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or visit the website:
www.daksh.com/philippines

We are also looking for:
Thai Speaking
Customer Care Specialists

STAM BUILDERS & DEVELOPERS, INC.

Is looking for Top-Notch

LICENSED CIVIL ENGINEERS

BASIC QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- Minimum of 5 years hands-on work experience with land development works and horizontal construction. Experience with reputable construction companies would be a plus.
- Must be adept in bridge and roadways construction, site grading works and other horizontal construction projects.
- Must be willing to be based in Cagayan De Oro.
- Must be computer literate.
- A good working knowledge on surveying would be an added advantage.

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO SEND THEIR RESUMÉ WITH PICTURE AND TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS TO:

THE RECRUITMENT MANAGER
(CODE: CIVIL ENGINEERS)
80 Roces Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Or Email: ebmuscat@motolite.com

I.H.M.E.S.
INTERNATIONAL HOTEL SCHOOL
SEEKS
Rooms Division Management Lecturer
and
Housekeeping and Laundry Operations Lecturer/Trainer

Applicants should be fluent in English, Computer literate and have either International experience or a minimum of 5 years hospitality industry experience.

Previous teaching experience not essential.

Interested applicants may forward their resumé to:
Carol Pido – Head of School
E-mail: ihmesmanila@yahoo.com
Tel.: 02 - 8209181 / 825-5147
Fax: 02 - 820 5952

URGENTLY NEEDED

ARCHITECS and ENGINEERS (CE, EE OR ME), male or female, preferably licensed and with actual building construction experience for the following positions:

PROJECT MANAGERS
With 12-15 years experience with hi-rise buildings

PROJECT ENGINEERS
With at least 5 years actual experience in Project Management, Quantity Surveys, Quality & Cost Control, Concrete, Rebar and Formworks and Masonry Works

SAFETY OFFICERS
With at least 5 years actual experience in buildings projects

CADET ENGINEERS
With at least 2 years actual experience an must willing to be trained in all technical aspects of hi-rise building construction.

Mail your applications with picture, C.V., copies of latest NBI clearance and proofs of experience to JDBEC, INC. S-511 Doña Felisa Syjuco Building, Remedios St. cor Taft Avenue, Malate, Manila or e-mail to jdbec_inc@yahoo.com not later than Wed, 07 September 2005

MOF Company, Inc., exclusive agent of Hanjin Shipping Ltd. & Senator Lines in the Philippines, leading transport service companies engaged in general shipping operations, is **URGENTLY** in need of dynamic and energetic professionals.

SR. MARKETING MANAGER
- Male or Female, not more than 35 years old;
- Minimum of five (5) years sales or marketing supervisory / managerial experience; preferably from a shipping industry;
- Business Course graduate from a reputable College or University;
- Analytical, personable and outgoing with strong marketing sense;
- Excellent communication skills.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
- Female, single with pleasing personality;
- Literate on various Computer applications;
- Excellent English communication skills;
- Graduate of any four (4) year Business or Secretarial related course from a reputable College or University;
- 3 to 5 years work experience as Executive Secretary;
- Can work under pressure and longer period of time.

PROGRAMMER
- Male or Female, not more than 30 years old;
- Graduate of any Computer related course from a reputable College or University
- Minimum of one (1) year related work experience;
- Proficient in Visual Basic 6, MS SQL, Crystal Report, VB.NET and LAN Administration;
- Can work under pressure and longer period of time.

Qualified applicants are requested to personally apply for immediate testing and interview at:

MOF
2nd Floor, CTC Bldg., 2232 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
(Please look for Melai / Weng - Personnel Section)
Email: mbroberto@mof.com.ph / Tel. No.: 5517530

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CB-1 Group of Companies

1. **FURNITURE/INTERIOR COSTESTIMATOR**
   Licensed Architect/Interior Designer
   Min. 5 years Furniture Shop Experience
   Computer literate
2. **SITE ENGR / ARCHT / INT. DESIGNER**
   Licensed Civil Engineer/Architect/Interior Designer Preferred
   Have exposure in Asian Tradition-Duhat High-End Projects
   Min. 5 yrs Exp. Computer literate
3. **ELECT'L COSTESTIMATOR**
   Licensed Electrical Engineer
   Min. 5 years Shop Drawing Experience
   Computer literate, exposure in Commercial, Residential, Office, Restaurant projects

Bring resume for immediate interview to:
#088 Maganda St., Riverside 1 Subd., Cainta Rizal
Tel# 2400061, 2402695 Telefax: 6568770/6565150
E-mail: cbadvertising@yahoo.com

A prestigious Corporation engaged in the tourism industry is in need of the following:

- **Creative Arts Specialist II G-15**
  Item No. 109/ Bachelor's degree relevant to the job / 1 yr. relevant experience / 4 hrs. training / CS (P)
- **Market Specialist II G-15**
  Item no. 59 / Bachelor's degree / 1 yr. experience/ 4 hrs. training / CS (P).
- **Clerk I G-1**
  Completion of 2 years studies in college/ CS (SP)

Interested parties may send their resume, transcript of records, NBI and other relevant documents to P.O. Box EA-459 Manila.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING
BY A FAST-GROWING SECURITY AGENCY
MARKETING ASST.
WITH PLEASING PERSONALITY
COLLEGE GRADUATE
PROFICIENT IN ORAL & WRITTEN ENGLISH
EXPERIENCE NOT NECESSARY
APPLY AT:
2/F MJ REALTY BLDG., ALABANG-ZAPOTE RD.
NEAR COR. PILAR RD., ALMANZA I, LAS PIÑAS

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

JOB Market

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2005
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JOB *Market* is exclusively for job advertisements.
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published every Sunday and distributed in key cities
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Text us your feedback: Inquirer jm name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

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Inspiration Doesn't.

Always moving forward. Always thinking ahead. Always changing. In a world where standstills have become all too common, we're the exception. Constantly evolving - often before anyone else in the market - we're the ultimate destination for professionals who aspire to make big things happen. So keep an eye out for us as we grow in Manila.

America's Most Admired Company. Dell is here.
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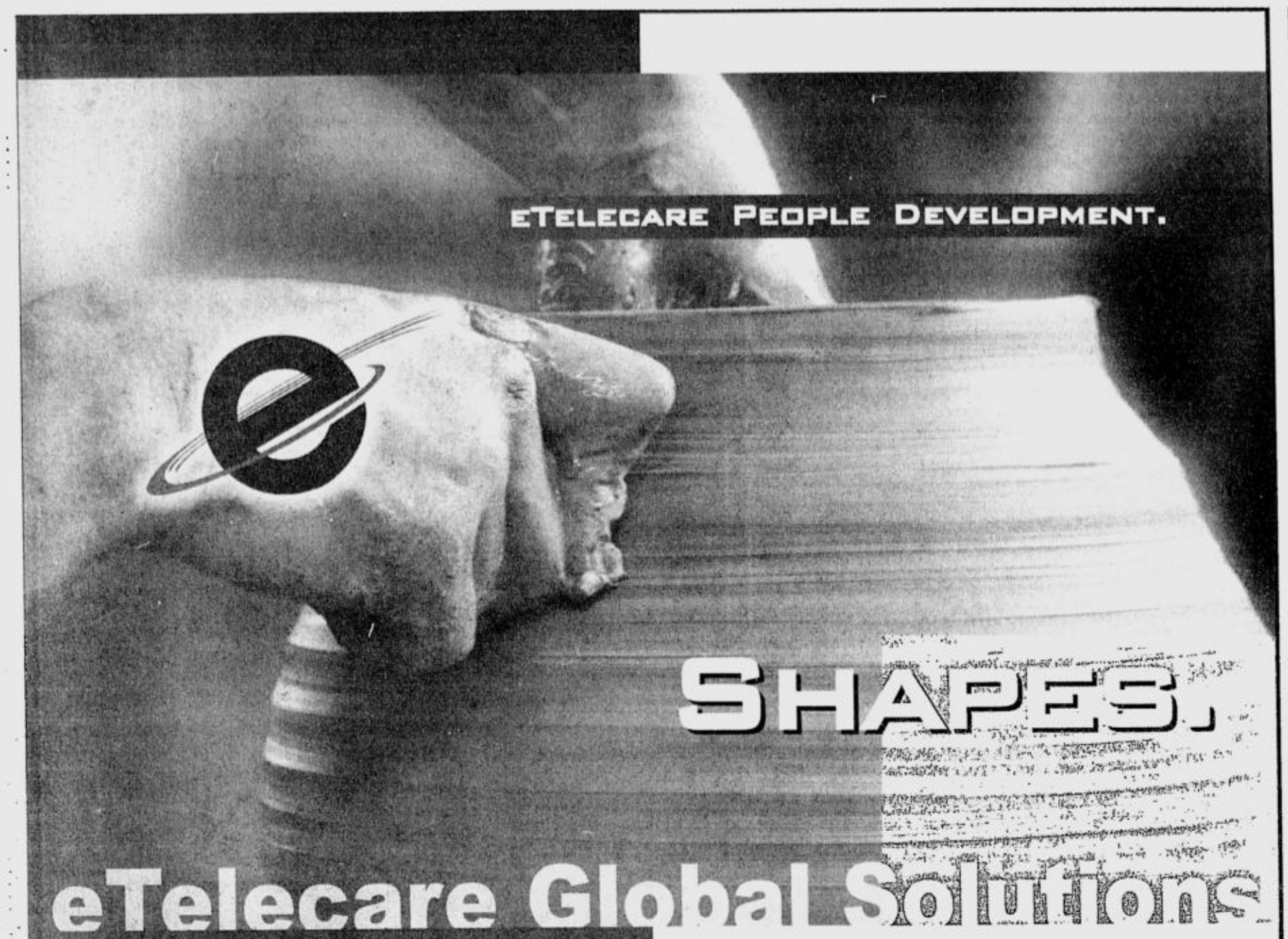

ORDINARY CLAY, IN THE HANDS OF A SKILLFUL ARTIST, TURNS INTO A PIECE OF ART.

Like a true artist, eTelecare molds its people to be industry leaders. We leave no stone unturned:

- World-leading behavioral programs like Covey's 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, DDI's Interaction Management, Project Management, Problem Solving and Decision Making, which are typically given by other companies to managers only, are made available to every employee at eTelecare.
- More than 100 people are dedicated to look after the training and career development of each employee. Compared with industry standards, we have twice as many people coaching, mentoring and providing support to our front liners.
- Over P130 million have been spent in producing training programs tailor-fit to the individual's level of competence and character. That amount is enough to put up a building, but eTelecare chose to invest it in people development

Even global experts like neoIT, the leading offshore advisory and management firm and CMP's Managing Offshore, the monthly newsletter for global-sourcing managers, recognized eTelecare's People Development program. In fact, eTelecare is the only call center with presence in the Philippines that was honored as one of The Offshore 100's Top 10 Leaders in Human Capital Development.

The facts show, the experts agree, that when you earn the e mark, you earn the privilege to be shaped into a masterpiece.

With over 2000 vacancies for Immediate Hiring!

Visit any of our recruiting centers in Makati, Quezon City or Cebu.

Due to the rapid growth of our existing programs and acquisition of several new businesses, we are aggressively expanding and in URGENT need of the following:

- Inbound Customer Service Associates
- Inbound Sales Associates
- Outbound Sales Associates
- Technical Support Representatives
- Multilingual Customer Service Associates (French, Spanish, Dutch, German, Japanese and Italian)

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Quezon City

Cebu Recruiting Center
6/F Building (ESB)
Asia Town IT Park,
Lahug, Cebu City

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Manila Recruiting (02) 580-6530
Cebu Recruiting (032) 411-9030

ATTN. APPLICANTS FROM THE SOUTH

Wanted by a leader in door industry with product lines ranging from remote-control garage, swing, slide, roll-up metal / fire doors is in need of:

SALES MANAGER (SM-DTS)

- Male or Female, 35 yrs. old below, with successful track records in sales management in architectural products. Familiarity with industry architects & contractors; with MBA, engineering graduate.

SALES ENGINEER (SM-DTS)

- Male / Female, not over 30 yrs. old. Graduate of ME, EE, CE or Architect. Previous experience selling architectural products, can relate well to Architects, Gen. Contractors, Developers & Home Owners.

SEND YOUR RESUMÉ W/ ENVELOPE MARKED SM-DTS OR SE-DTS TO:
P.O. BOX 428, GREENHILLS; OR EMAIL TO:
doortech@compass.com.ph. or
doortech@pldtdsl.com.ph.
Tel. No. 9132701

DOORTECH SYSTEM
Alabang Branch, Store A10,
Westgate Alabang Home Depot

BANCO RODRIGUEZ

Philippines' 1st Rural Bank
needs the following for immediate hiring:

ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
- 5 years banking experience

INTERNAL AUDITOR / COMPLIANCE OFFICER
- 5 years banking experience

BRANCH MANAGER
- Minimum 3 years bank experience
- Business graduate
- Not more than 30 years old
- Resident of Montalban / Marikina

ACCOUNTANT
- CPA/minimum 3 years bank experience
- Not more than 30 years old

MARKETING ASSISTANT
- Fresh graduate - Business course
- Willing to do fieldwork

Please send your resumé or you may apply in person to Human Resources Department-Banco Rodriguez located at Plaza Rizal, Pasig City or call 643-4381/83; email at rodriguez_rb@yahoo.com

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Pasong Tamo Tower
2210 Pasong Tamo Street, Makati City
Tel. No. 893-62-02; 893-80-45

NORWEGIAN TRAINING CENTER-MANILA
Is in need of a

INSTRUCTORS FOR

DYNAMIC POSITION SIMULATOR
OFFSHORE CRANE SIMULATOR
LNG SIMULATOR
BRIDGE SIMULATOR

Who Are We?

The Norwegian Training Center-Manila of the Norwegian Maritime Foundation of the Phils., Inc. (NMFPI) was founded in May 1990 for the purpose of ensuring competent training and to promote quality shipping.

We offer varied courses from Ship and Cargo Handling; Management; Technical; Safety Courses; Welding; and Culinary Courses

Our faculty of Norwegian and Filipino manners is trained to teach with confidence, aided by modern teaching aids and methods

NORWEGIAN TRAINING CENTER-MANILA (NTC-M) and SHIPS MANUEVERING SIMULATOR CENTRE AS (SMSC) in Trondheim, Norway are joining forces in order for NTC-M to be able to offer new products within simulator training to the shipping industry in the Philippines.

A new wing at the NTC-M complex will be ready mid-September 2005. This will give us first class facilities for our instructors, four new classrooms and a special area for new simulators.

New simulators such as Dynamic Positioning Systems for DP certificate, Offshore Crane Simulator for crane certificate and LNG Simulator will be installed this year and courses will be offered to the industry as from January 2006.

A new state of the art bridge simulator will be installed during first half of 2006. (Our present bridge simulator will be upgraded during first half of September 2005).

In connection with this development, new instructors will be hired and trained partly in Norway and partly at NTC-M in Manila.

We are looking for both active sailing senior officers that are willing to teach during the vacation period and personnel that look for a permanent employment with NTC-M.

What We Are Looking For?

Positions	Requirements
Instructors for Dynamic Position Simulator	Limited of Full DP Certificate
Instructors for Offshore Crane Simulator	Experience from operation of offshore cranes or similar cranes (bigger ships cranes) and some mechanical education/experience.
Instructors for LNG Simulator	Experience from LNG or LPG vessels as Captain/Chief Officer
Instructors for Bridge Simulator	Experienced Captain and preferably with experience in teaching.

For applications please contact either of the following:
Ms. Blesila G. Tan-Salva, Administration Manager

Address
Norwegian Training Center-Manila
NTC-M Building, Gate 2 TESDA Complex
East Service Road, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tel. No 812-07-42
Website: www.ntcm.com.ph
E-mail: admin.manager@ntcm.com.ph
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Please apply in person at:

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219 Katipunan Ave., Blue Ridge, Quezon City
Tel. No. 913-56-30 / 31
(Bring resumé with recent picture)

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- GE license preferred, but not necessary
- Willing to accept field assignments

Encoders:
- Must have completed at least 3 years of geodetic engineering course
- Experience in Windows-based applications and MS Office suite
- Willing to accept field assignments
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Bookkeeper:
- Accounting graduate, with at least 2 years experience
- Proficiency in MS Excel & MS Office applications required

Apply in person, with resume and 2x2 photo, at:

CREBA-GSI Inc
2006-B West Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange Center
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Or email your resume to: gina.esguerra@gmail.com; bamb@pldtdsl.net

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our team is in need someone who can put up and maintain dynamic websites. preference will be given to those with solid backend (asp, mysql, etc) developing skills paired with average frontend (dreamweaver, flash) development skills

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Candidates must be an accounting graduate, female, not more than 35 years old, must have at least 3 years of experience in General, Cost or Financial Accounting in a manufacturing set-up and must be computer literate.

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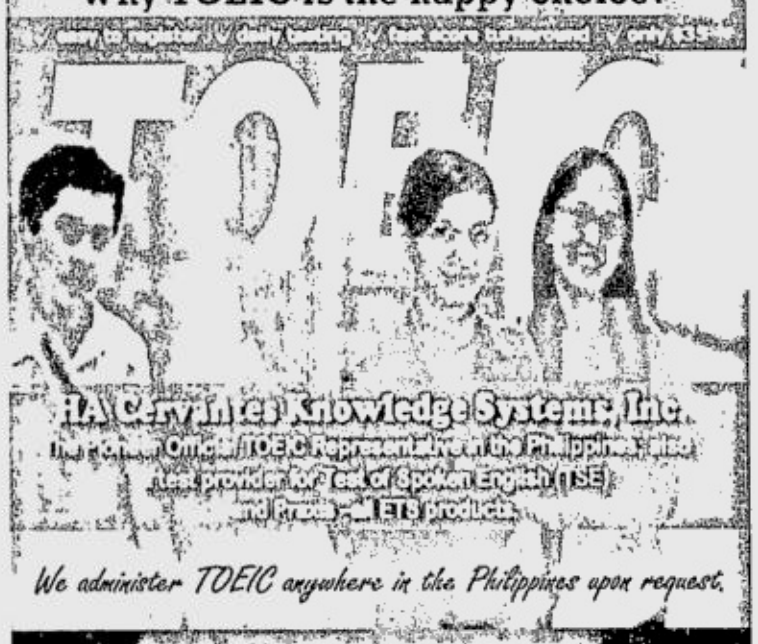

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- Internet savvy

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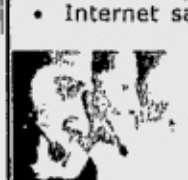
- Must be proficient in PHP, Java, & MySQL
- Must be familiar in Symbian OS
- BS/MS in Computer Science or related field of study
- At least 1 year working experience in Software Development an advantage
- Must have strong Technical Skills, Inter-personal skills, and an ability to think out-of-the-box
- Fresh graduates are welcome

ACCOUNTANT
- Must be an accounting graduate and must have at least one year experience in the same field
- Female, 21 to 27 years old, must be a self-starter
- Basic computer knowledge
- Knowledge in Quicken or Quickbooks an advantage
- Must have strong organizational skills with emphasis on accuracy
- Fresh graduates are welcome



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ENGINEER (ARCHITECTURAL)
- You will be involved in the drafting / design work of Architectural / Structural outfitting, monitoring changes in drafting / design, planning and organizing the work to meet the schedule.
- Must have good knowledge of international standard and codes.
- Degree or Diploma in Architectural Engineering with a minimum of 8 years experience.

ENGINEER (ELECTRICAL)
- Responsible for the design of electrical systems including the distribution and protection of HV, MV and LV power systems, power generation and communication systems.
- Preparation of technical specifications, selection of equipment and cost estimates for oil production facilities.
- Degree or Diploma in Electrical Engineering with a minimum of 3 years experience.

ENGINEER (INSTRUMENTATION)
- Responsible for the instrumentation design of offshore oil production facilities including the development of P & IDs, logic diagrams, cause and effect matrices and equipment selection and sizing.
- Degree or Diploma in Instrumentation Engineering with a minimum of 3 years experience.

ENGINEER (MECHANICAL)
- Responsible for leading and supervising a team of workforce for the detailed design of topside engineering for all mechanical equipment.
- Experience in the installation of mechanical packages and rotating equipment.
- Full of energy and enthusiasm to be part of a project engineering team.
- Engineering Degree with 5 years or Diploma with 7 years related experience in the oil and gas industry.

ENGINEER (PIPING)
- Responsible for piping detailed design for fixed and floating platforms.
- Preparation of piping material specification, material requisition, bid evaluation / recommendation, vendor drawings review, equipment and piping layout studies. Review of 3D Model using PDMS and PDS, and performing stress analysis using CEASAR-II.
- Should have knowledge on ASME / API / AISC / AWS codes.
- Degree in Chemical / Mechanical Engineering with minimum 8 years experience.

ENGINEER (PROCESS)
- Responsible for the process design of offshore oil production facilities including the development of P & IDs, heat and mass balance, equipment selection and sizing.
- Active participation in HAZOP studies.
- Degree or Diploma in Chemical Engineering with a minimum of 3 years experience.

ENGINEER (STRUCTURAL)
- Responsible for the design of fixed offshore platforms including decks, modules and jackets, preparation of erection, weighing and loadout procedures.
- Perform structural analysis and design of secondary structures.
- Good knowledge of international standard and codes such as API / AISC / AWS and SACS software.
- Degree in Civil / Structural Engineering with a minimum of 5 years experience in offshore structural engineering works.

DESIGNER (ARCHITECTURAL)
- You will be involved in the drafting / design work of Architectural / Structural outfitting, monitoring changes in drafting / design, planning and organizing the work to meet the schedule.
- Must have good knowledge of international standard / codes.
- Degree or Diploma in Architectural Engineering with a minimum of 8 years experience.

DESIGNER (ELECTRICAL)
- Reporting to the Senior Designer / Electrical Engineer and responsible for the preparation of electrical material take-off, layout drawing, calculation, installation drawings for the electrical equipment, interconnection and wiring diagram and preparing / checking of electrical design drawing.
- Good knowledge of AutoCAD software is a must.
- Experience in PDMS / PDS will be an added advantage.
- Must be willing to work overseas.
- Degree or Diploma in Electrical Engineering with a minimum of 3 years experience.

DESIGNER (INSTRUMENTATION)
- Reporting to the Senior Designer / Instrument Engineer and responsible for the material take-off, layout drawing, hook up drawing, interconnection and wiring diagram and preparing / checking of instrument design drawing.
- Good knowledge of AutoCAD software is a must.
- Experience in PDMS / PDS will be an added advantage.
- Must be willing to work overseas.
- Degree or Diploma in Instrumentation Engineering with a minimum of 3 years experience.

DESIGNER (STRUCTURAL)
- Responsible for the structural material take-off, preparing / check structural design drawing, shop drawing, plate / beam cutting plan and installation drawings for the equipment and structures.
- Good knowledge of AutoCAD software is a must.
- Experience in PDMS / PDS / XSTEEL will be an added advantage.
- Must be willing to work overseas.
- Degree in Civil / Structural Engineering with a minimum of 3 years experience in offshore structural engineering works.

PDS/PDMS DESIGNER (MECHANICAL/PIPING)
- You will be responsible for equipment modeling, piping modeling to generate layout drawings, Section drawings and piping isometrics with BOM on offshore projects preferably fixed and floating.
- Proficient in conceptual layouts, plot plan creation, GA drawing generation and running clash detection process using either Intergraph PDS or AVEVA PDMS or both.
- Good knowledge of international standard and code, such as API / AISC / AWS. Experience on construction engineering will be an advantage.
- Degree or Diploma in Mechanical Engineering with a minimum of 8 years experience.

PDMS ADMINISTRATOR
- You will be involved in PDMS projects and be responsible for building catalogues and specifications, providing support to piping designers for modeling and customization of Draft, Isodraft and creation of symbol keys.
- Good knowledge of detailed Engineering, PML and PML 2 is required. Experience in MDS and Clash Manager will be an added advantage.
- Degree in Mechanical / Chemical Engineering with 5 to 8 years of design experience preferably in oil and gas industry of which 3 years of experience are in managing PDMS projects.

PDS ADMINISTRATOR
- You will be responsible for setting up PDS projects for detailed design on offshore projects, preferably fixed and floating.
- Customizing PDS Piping specifications, Isometric drawing settings using Isogen software. Creating and managing design review sessions using Intergraph SmartPlan Review product.
- Managing and customizing Intergraph PDS Reference database for disciplines such as Piping, Electrical and Structural.
- Experience on setting up and customizing Spoolgen for generating Spool drawings.
- Degree or Diploma in Engineering with a minimum of 8 years experience.

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- Proficient in Windows software

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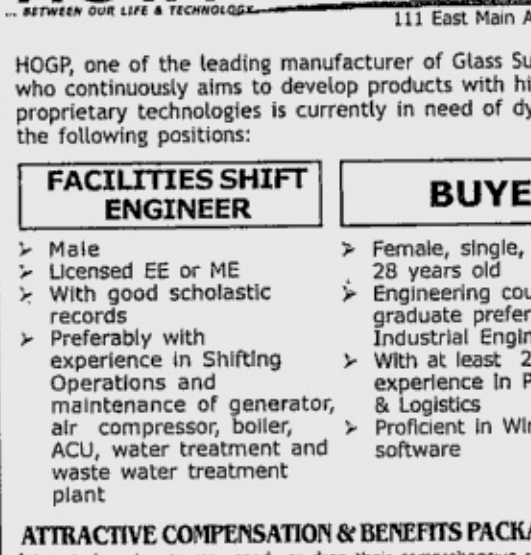

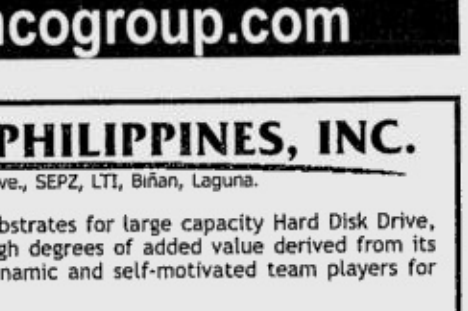

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- Degree in BS Mechanical Engineering or Civil Engineering with experience in Piping layout and detailed design of petrochemical, refinery, power and industrial plants.
- Familiar and knowledgeable with various piping standards such as ANSI and ASME B31 codes.
- Preferably with working knowledge of Microstation and 3D Intergraph PDS System.

PIPING STRESS ENGINEERS
- Mechanical or Civil Engineer with In-Piping Stress Analysis. Knowledgeable in CAESAR II or AutoPIPE software.
- With proven capability in performing static and dynamic engineering, analysis and supervisory tasks.

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS
- Structural Engineers with relevant work experience.
- Can generate and/or check engineering calculations, sketches and designs using computer aided and manual techniques for steel structures.
- Able to interface with other disciplines.
- Preferably with experience in offshore facilities, petrochemical, refinery, power and industrial plants.
- Knowledge in STRUCAD 3D/SACS, STAAD PRO, RISA, Microstation or AutoCAD preferred; Plant Design System (PDS) experience an advantage.

STRUCTURAL DESIGNERS
- Structural Designers with relevant experience in Steel structures related work on detailed design preferably in offshore facilities, petrochemical, refinery, power and industrial plants.
- Knowledge in Microstation, AutoCAD, Frameworks and/or Plant Design System preferred.
- Can prepare material take-off required for bill of materials listing.

PIPING MATERIAL ENGINEERS
- Metallurgical, Mechanical, Chemical, Material Science Engineer with relevant work experience.
- Familiar with Piping Codes and Standards. Can specify Piping Materials, make Technical specifications and do bid evaluations.

MECHANICAL DESIGN ENGINEERS (ROTATING AND STATIONARY EQUIPMENT)
- Mechanical Engineer with relevant experience in engineering and design of rotating and stationary equipment.
- With proven capability in preparing RFQ/RFP packages and Technical Bid Evaluation.
- Able to review Vendor documents.
- Familiar with ASME Code.

ELECTRICAL DESIGN ENGINEERS
- Graduate of Engineering or other related course with relevant work experience. Can perform Engineering design and calculations.
- Good understanding of Electrical drawings (e.g. One-line diagram, Schematic diagram, Plan drawings, etc.).
- Can function as Electrical Supervisor in a project. Familiar with Electrical Engineering specifications, American & European Codes and Standards. Can perform checking of Electrical deliverables.
- Able to perform estimates and material take-off. Knowledge of AutoCAD R13/14 or MicroStation.
- Computer literate (able to operate MS Excel, MS Word and MS Access).

ELECTRICAL DESIGNERS
- Graduate of Technical, Engineering or other related course with relevant work experience.
- Good understanding of Electrical drawings (e.g. One-line diagram, Schematic diagram, Connection diagrams and able to develop plan or layout drawings, etc.).
- Familiar with electrical materials, devices, and equipment.
- Familiar with Electrical specifications, American & European Codes and Standards. Able to perform lighting calcs, cable sizing, cable trays and conduit, sizing, Cable Trench fill, other design calculations, estimates, and material take-off.
- Knowledgeable in AutoCAD R13/14/2000 or MicroStation. Knowledge in PDS Modeling is a plus.
- Computer literate (able to operate MS Excel, MS Word and MS Access).

CIVIL ENGINEERS
- Civil Engineers with relevant work experience.
- Can generate and/or check engineering calculations, sketches and designs using computer aided and manual techniques for site grading, paving, drainage, gravity / pressure underground piping. Able to interface with other disciplines.
- Preferably with experience in infrastructure, petrochemical, refinery, power and industrial plants. Knowledge in InRoads, Softdesk Landev, Microstation or AutoCAD preferred.

CIVIL DESIGNERS
- Civil Designers with relevant experience in underground piping related work on detailed design preferably in petrochemical, refinery, power and industrial plants.
- Knowledge in Microstation, AutoCad, Frameworks and/or Plant Design System preferred.
- Can prepare material take-off required for bill of materials listing.

CONTROL SYSTEMS DESIGN ENGINEERS
- Graduate of Engineering or other related course with relevant work experience. Familiar with Control Systems Codes and Standards.
- Able to develop Instrument Specification and Data Sheets.
- Knowledgeable in sizing and selection of control valves, relief valves, and flow elements.
- Knowledgeable in DCS, PLC hardware specification and programming. Knowledgeable/experienced in Factory Acceptance Test (DCS, PLC, etc.).
- Able to participate in P&ID development. With knowledge/experience in Control Systems engineering design tools such as Intools, PDMS, Material Management System and PDS.
- Can function as Control Systems Supervisor in a project. Can review and check control systems design deliverables. Knowledge of AutoCAD R13/14/2000 or MicroStation.
- Computer literate (MS Access, MS Excel, MS Word, and MS Access).

CONTROL SYSTEMS DESIGNERS
- Graduate of Technical, Engineering or other related course with relevant work experience.
- Able to Interpret and understand Piping and Instrumentation Diagram (P&ID). Good understanding of Control Systems design deliverables/drawings. Able to develop plan or layout drawings.
- Familiar with materials, devices and instruments used in Control Systems (such as flow, level, temperature, pressure, analytical, and other process instruments).
- Familiar with Control Systems specifications, American & European Codes and Standards. Able to perform design calculations Cable tray, Conduit, and Cable trench fill estimates and material take-off. Familiar with instrument specification and datasheets.
- Knowledge in DCS systems, PLC is a plus. Knowledge of AutoCAD R13/14/2000 or MicroStation.
- Knowledge of Control Systems design tools such as Intools, PDMS, and PDS.

PROCESS ENGINEERS
- Licensed Chemical Engineer with minimum 5 years experience in petrochemical, oil and gas front end engineering and design work.
- Broad understanding of P&ID development
- Experience in equipment, instrument and line sizing and relief load calculation
- Knowledgeable in processing engineering software

BUYERS
- College graduate with minimum 5 years experience in project procurement of construction bulk materials, engineered items and equipment.
- Good commercial acumen.
- Computer literate (able to operate MS Excel, MS Word, and other MS Office software).
- Good interpersonal and communication skills. Good negotiation and decision-making skills.

EXPEDITERS
- College graduate with minimum 3 years experience in project expediting of construction bulk and engineered materials and equipment.
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Husband finds it hard to work with wife

From page 4★★★

way is because you always let her have her way to keep peace in your relationship and to make her happy. You've played the role of victim and martyr. This mindset has a profound effect on your perceptions, self-image, judgments, behavior and your relationship with your wife.

Power couples

A few years back, I did a research on four married couples who run successful businesses together, whose businesses had been started by the wives. Based on this research and my own marriage, I wrote a series of articles on couple power at work. These were published in the People at Work section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer from October to November 2000. These, and other essays on work and career, were included in a book, "Managing Work and Career in 2003" by New Day Publisher.

These couples, including Jorge and myself, had conflicts just like what you and your wife have; but the marriages have grown stronger because the spouses are in business together. These couples were Dom and Jeanne Menguito (food business and real estate development and marketing), Raffie and Bella Ramirez (food and catering business), Enteng and Marissa Romano (training programs for IT executives, events management, software distribution), and Oliver and Malou Darwin (pharmaceutical marketing and advertising, events management). These couples, like Jorge and I, had different educational backgrounds, family and cultural upbringing, personalities and business orientations. These differences can either be a boon or a bane.

Benefits

Couples who work together have positive and negative experiences. On the positive side, they gain many benefits from putting their minds and hearts together into a business that can be a greater source of joy and unity. The couples I featured in my article were able to transcend their differences; in fact, their differences were the source of synergy or couple power. "Joys shared are doubled, problems shared are halved," so the saying goes.

Being together provides more opportunities to enjoy each other's company, to enhance communication, and to strengthen the bond of marriage as you help and support each other to make your business successful.

Couples at work speak a common language, talk about the same things, solve the same problems, and pray together for the same things. When the business is successful, both share material and psychic rewards. They experience the exhilarating feeling of "We did it together!"

Shared experiences

They also share the same vision for the company, hopes and aspirations. When the business slackens or takes a dive, both pray to God to carry them through. They hold on together as they go through peaks and valleys as almost all businesses are bound to go these days.

Spouses working together are transparent to each other unlike couples with separate careers who usually do not share with the other the real reasons for their unhappiness or dissatisfaction with their work, career or bosses because of fear that the other will not understand. But when husband and wife work together in a business venture, they carry their burdens together. They know each other's strengths and weaknesses. There is no need to be afraid to admit their weaknesses and failures to each other.

A spouse does not experience the feeling of being left out when he or she accompanies the other for lunch or dinner meeting with clients. There is no room for a spouse to feel jealous about the company the other keeps because they either know or meet the same people. Also, when one spouse is absent due to sickness or is on his or her own private time, the other spouse takes over.

(To be continued)

(Josie O. Santamaria has a Ph.D in psychology and is a practicing psychologist, counselor, management consultant, executive coach and mentor. She has designed and conducted training programs in leadership, behavior management and career development. Her company, Career Systems, Inc., which she and her husband Jorge manage with daughter Desiree S. Urbi, specializes in career development, leadership and management development programs, and outplacement counseling services, as well as provide consulting services in human resources development and organization development. Send feedback to carsys@careersystems.com.ph.)

Questions to anticipate during an interview

From page 4★★★

worth and your drive to improve. According to Esguerra, more than identifying your strengths and weaknesses, know what you should do to improve your weaknesses. It may also be a good idea to let your weaknesses work for you. Put your less admirable points in a positive light. For instance, restlessness could be a negative trait. But looking at it in another way, restless energy may be transformed to productivity. Another example is being obsessive compulsive. At an extreme, it can be viewed as a disorder, but when checked and controlled, obsessive compulsiveness may mean being very detailed and exact with your output. Study your weaknesses carefully and see how you can work them to your advantage and to your prospective company's benefit.

6. What are the personal/professional values that are important to you?

Susan Vidal, executive talent manager at eTelecare, says that this question checks your alignment with the company's goals. This question establishes your character and personality. Think of the top five things that mean a lot to you. What are the things that you value the most? What is it that you believe in? What are your principles in life? "The candidate must be able to put proper priority on his/her life values and should be exhibited in actual behavior and circumstances," adds Lim of URC.

7. What are the challenges in your current/previous jobs?

Esguerra of Convergys says that inquiring about the challenges and difficulties you've encountered and knowing how you dealt with them will exhibit your problem-solving skills. Similarly, you should be able to answer Esguerra's follow-up question, "How were you able to surpass such challenges?"

8. What leadership experiences do you have?

Aside from job experience, knowing how to work with people is also important. It is not enough that you know how to do your job well; you must also be able to work effectively as a team or lead and motivate people. "The candidate must be able to show proof that he or she has in fact gone through a number of situations that required him or her to display his or her leadership qualities and capabilities. Or should be able to describe examples of actual leadership situations or positions he or she has been exposed to," suggests Lim.

9. Why are you leaving your present employer?

This is a tricky question. The bottom-line of this inquiry leads to the question of loyalty and again, commitment. If you stayed with your previous employment for less than a month, how can your prospective employer know for certain that you will stay after they've invested on training and grooming you for the position?

Make sure you have a legitimate reason for leaving your previous employer. Most reason that they are looking for better opportunities; this is fairly acceptable. However, make sure that you do not bad mouth your previous employer. "Sourgra ping" will not give a very good impression. Instead of putting your previous employer in a bad light, put your prospective employer in a good light. Explain to your interviewer how you think the company will offer you the most advantages in terms of career growth.

10. What can you contribute to the company?

This is the part where you start to sell yourself by being on the offensive. Again, know yourself. Know your strengths. Be confident about what you can bring to the company. This leads you back to knowing the company you are applying for, the position you desire and your capabilities. See how you fit into the company. Determine what the company needs that you can provide. "Start with your research of what the recruiter is looking for in terms of competencies, skills, values, fit with the organization and bearing," counsels Cecilia.

Answer these questions with an air of authority and confidence. As Cecilia would put it, "If you think you are beaten, you are." Above confidence, do not undermine honesty and sincerity. Recruiters deal with dozens of applicants everyday. They know how to read people. They can smell fakes and posers a mile away.

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Mayor of Muntinlupa City Jaime Fresnedi, (third from left) and Lina Aseneta, president, PMAP (fourth from left) cut the ribbon during the ceremony of HR South Network Job Fair at Expo Trade Hall, 4th Floor Festival Supermall, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City on Aug. 11. Also shown are Mr. Alex Kho, officer of Muntinlupa Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Carmen Escote, head recruitment committee HR South Network, Engelbert T. Camasura, president, HR South Network, Valentine Esguerra, head, Learning Forum HR South Network, Jesse Rebustillo, Philippine Daily Inquirer Classified Ads division head, Lourdes Diaz, Inquirer Classified Ads manager, Robert Navarro, Marketing manager HR South Network, Roy Corpuz, head Fellowship Committee, HR South Network. The jobfair is in cooperation with the Philippine Daily Inquirer which was held from Aug. 11 to 13.

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Getting along with the boss

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

By Terri Levine

YOUR boss holds your future prospects in his hands. Expect very few favors from a boss who does not like you. Some bosses are hard to please and get along with. Some have excellent qualifications but have no idea when it comes to dealing with people. Of course, not all bosses are like that.

Bad relationships with the boss can not only mean missed advancement opportunities; it is one of the major reasons for high staff turnover. If you resign because of the boss, you may also expect a dent in your professional reputation. Imagine having to provide such an "ex" boss as the contact referral person at your next interview?

Major factor

The relationship you have with your boss can be a major factor in determining your rise up the ladder. Your boss isn't only your supervisor, he is also the person best equipped (or should be) to help you do the job you are paid to do. He is privy to the company's goals and knows what the company is looking for in future executives. He can inform you of company direction that may affect your future aspirations. He can put in a good word for you in the right ears. He is also your ally when you need back up, support or cooperation from other departments.

Your boss also needs you, performing at your best, in order to accomplish his objectives. He needs your feedback in order to provide realistic and useful reports to upper management. You can make him look good or bad.

Meaningful relationship

But how does this help you establish a meaningful working relationship with your boss?

The key is communication. Learn and understand his goals and priorities. What is required of him and how can you help him achieve that? Observe and understand your boss' work style. If he has not been clear with his expectations, ask! Likewise, ask for feedback and accept criticism gracefully. And if he understands you do not view your job as just something to fill the hours between 9 and 5, he may be more inclined to help you.

Know your boss' priorities and try to anticipate his needs before he asks. Don't think narrowly in terms of your own immediate position. Try to understand where what you do ties in with the bigger picture.

Only human

What other things can you discover about your boss? Is she conservative or informal? Does she prefer to be greeted as Ms, Miss or Mrs., or does she prefer first names? Is hers an "open door" policy or does she prefer you set appointments with her? Respect your boss' time. Never barge into her office expecting or demanding a hearing immediately. Does she prefer to be kept informed with progress reports, or does she prefer you show initiative and get on with the job? Discover and eliminate behaviors that would annoy her, and never bad-mouth her to others. It always gets back via office grapevines.

Your boss is only human. Like you, he has his off days, and being human, he can also make mistakes. Some managers are naturals, and others struggle because communication and people skills are not their strong points. He may not have all the answers, and maybe, his own boss is hard to get along with or has unrealistic expectations!

Independence

Don't be a "yes man" and don't offer false flattery in the hope of getting somewhere—it won't work! Don't aim for "closeness" in the working relationship because this can also backfire. If he depends upon you too much, he won't recommend you for promotions because he needs you too much where you are. Another possibility is, if he is not a good manager, he may be given his marching orders. If you are seen to be a part of his management mishaps, you may be marching out the door with him!

Do what you can to stay in his or her good books. Don't take "sickies" unless you are sick! Be an effective, cooperative, responsible and courteous employee and team player.

Managing friction

It is possible that you are already these things, and you are working for somebody whose management style disagrees with your needs or expectations. Maybe friction cannot be avoided. So you need to decide just how important your career path in that particular company is, because if you can't adjust and work with it, you may be better off looking for a new job in a new department or company.

In short, getting along with your boss entails getting to know his likes and dislikes and learning to work with his personality and management style. And the upside about mastering communication and people skills with your own boss is that one day, those skills will pay off in your own management role with your own team.

((c) Terri Levine MCC, PCC, MS, CCC-SLP is CEO of Coaching Instruction, a master certified coach, public speaker, and author of "Stop Managing, Start Coaching," "Work Yourself Happy," "Coaching for an Extraordinary Life," and "Create Your Ideal Body." E-mail her at terri@coaching instruction.co. *Source: http://workhelp.org/content/view/46/45)*

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What you write in blogs can block your career growth

From page 4 ★★★

to publish a blogging policy for its employees. Workers are reminded that talking about Sun's revenue outlook or stock price on company blogs "is apt to get you, or the company, or both, into legal trouble." Sun's bloggers also are cautioned to protect corporate secrets and that "using your Web log to trash or embarrass the company, our customers, or your coworkers, is not only dangerous but stupid." The blogging handbook does not "really set any new policies—it just points people to the ones that already exist and apply," said Tim Bray, Sun's director of Web technologies.

But he said the policy was needed because many of the company's bloggers are scientists and engineers who don't typically discuss company business in public.

Companies also are grappling with how to deal with workers who write personal blogs that discuss their employers.

In one case, a Delta Air Lines Inc. flight attendant contends that she was suspended, then fired, because she posted pictures of herself wearing her company uniform on a personal blog. She filed a sexual discrimination complaint with the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, saying Delta did not fire men for similar conduct.

A former Google Inc. software programmer was fired in January after commenting on his personal blog about the goings-on inside the Internet search company.

Mara Levin, an employment attorney at law firm Herrick Feinstein, said she has been busy helping companies update their employment manuals with blog ging policies.

"They are enacting clear guidelines in order to ensure that they are not exposed to liability," she said. Some companies also "are looking to see if an employee has a blog before they hire them. You learn a lot about a person by reading their blog." While blogging is growing at the corporate level, few top executives have embraced the technology themselves. Bob Parsons, CEO of privately held domain name registrar GoDaddy.com, says that's because many executives fear speaking their mind.

Parsons has a personal blog that discusses business as well as topics such as his combat experiences in Vietnam. He said he never vets his content with lawyers, but that he might have to reconsider if his company were ever to go public.

"The blog is unsanitized," he said. "Most executives are too conservative, and too play-it-safe to do this."

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Husband finds it hard to work with wife

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

By Josie O. Santamaria

AT THE END of your column on Sunday, Aug. 22, I read that you and your husband are in business together. I am writing to find out what formula you use to have peace and happiness in your business relationship with your spouse. I joined my wife in her real estate business three years ago and I must admit that there is hardly a day that we have no disagreement in our dealings with each other. Sometimes, our strong conflicts result in shouting matches in our office, within the hearing of our employees, something that I'm very embarrassed about.

My wife set up her business 10 years ago. She is a pro in marketing and sales; selling runs in her blood. She is an extrovert and likes to go out to meet and interact with people. I am just the opposite, which is why my education and work experience had been in finance. I was happy in my corporate career, rising from accounting clerk to finance director until my wife cajoled and "pressured" me into joining her business when it was floundering. She made me chairman of the board and president of the realty company while she took the title of executive vice president and operations head.

Being in business together has strained our marriage, which I used to think was a very happy one. Spending most of our time on most days together (unless she goes out with property owners and prospective property buyers or deals with city and municipal governments) has magnified our personality and character differences, leading to disagreements, sometimes on trivial things.

My wife always wants to have her way, communicating directly or indirectly to me and to our employees that she knows the business more than I do and that I should trust her decisions based on her instincts. So I end up letting her get her way just to keep peace in our relationship.

She is a very loving and loveable person and this is why our marriage has survived these past 22 years. However, she is impulsive, impetuous and impatient to see results and to close a sale immediately. Her "bahala na" attitude irks me to no end since not a few of her so-called "successful sales" have resulted in bouncing checks and cancellation of sales contracts. In spite of these, she doesn't learn her lesson. I disagree with most of her business decisions because of their long-term implication on profitability. She would overturn my decisions and I find myself feeling like a fool.

I want to get out of our business and go back to corporate life but she always manages to make me change my mind. I'm very unhappy and this is affecting me personally and psychologically. Our marriage is already affected and our relationship strained. I don't want our three children to be the products of a broken home. Please advise me what to do.

Mr. Heartbroken

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Your confusion and frustration are pretty obvious. You are torn between your great love for your spouse and strong desire to keep your marriage intact and her self-centered and domineering ways, which make you feel helpless and hopeless. Your request for advice is a good sign that you want to save your relationship and marriage.

The reason your wife always manages to have her

HUSBAND/P. 2★★★

What you write in blogs can block your career growth

By Martha Graybow

NEW YORK—As corporate America wades into the burgeoning world of Internet Web logs, companies are being warned they could face legal hazards when employees are let loose in the free-wheeling blogosphere.

Blogs, online journals that are proliferating on the Web, are attracting attention from big businesses looking for new ways to connect with customers. Sun Microsystems Inc., Microsoft Corp. and General Motors Corp. all have officially sanctioned corporate blogs for employees to write about products and strategy.

But lawyers see possible legal pitfalls for companies looking to join the blogging phenomenon. What, for instance, would happen if someone at a publicly traded company unwittingly divulged confidential financial information or a trademark secret on one of these Web diaries?

There already have been cases of people being fired for writing about life inside their companies on blogs not affiliated with their employers. Experts say the real test will come when courts must consider the legal ramifications of what employees say on corporate blogs.

"There's very, very little case law at this point," said Paul Arne, co-chairman of the technology group at law firm Morris Manning & Martin LLP. He recently conducted a telephone seminar for other corporate lawyers to discuss blogging.

It's no surprise that big businesses are increasingly interested in blogs. An estimated 40,000 to 50,000 new blogs are created each day, according to Intelli seek, a technology company that tracks developments in the medium.

At Sun Microsystems, about 2,000 employees blog, including President and Chief Operating Officer Jonathan Schwartz.

Schwartz's Web columns touch on everything from how businesses can keep customers happy to his brush with national recognition when he was mentioned on the "Late Show with David Letterman" in a list of the "Top 10 Signs Your Kid is Spending Too Much Time on the Internet." In a nod to potential legal dangers, Schwartz abandoned attempts at an April Fool's Day practical joke entry earlier this year, telling readers it would have been difficult to post such a blog without "serious engagement from the corporate legal team." Sun was one of the first companies

WHAT/P. 3★★★

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Questions to anticipate during an interview

By Candy G. Villanueva
Contributor

(Continued from last week)

HERE are some more questions that may be asked in a job interview, as shared by the interviewers themselves:

4. What experiences do you have along the line of work you are interested to work in?

Nic Lim, director of human resources for Universal Robina Corporation, often asks applicants about their actual job experiences using the STAR approach. STAR stands for situation, task, action and result. "This question will elicit the candidate's depth and breath of functional knowledge on the chosen field or position being applied for," explains Lim.

More than asking for actual job experiences, some interviewers will inquire about specific situations that will demonstrate the competency and experience you have actually been exposed to. How you reacted to these situations and tasks and the results you generated will measure your depth and breadth of experience.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

This type of approach may prove to be an advantage. Although you do not have the experience in the industry you are applying for, your previous responsibilities may prove that you are qualified for the position, which in most cases, are far more preferred. For instance, if you are applying for a marketing job and have never done marketing-related tasks before, you might want to share experiences in your previous jobs that entailed a lot of interaction with people. Mention tasks and responsibilities that displayed your capability to influence people.

"If experience is the only measure of suitability for a position, then no fresh graduate will be hired. Potential and past performance in related jobs are better indicators of job success," affirms Ernie Cecilia, president of EC Business Solutions and Career Center who has over 25 years solid experience in the HR field.

5. What are your strengths and weaknesses?

After you've identified your career goals, expressed your commitment to the company, showed genuine interest and enthusiasm for the position and enumerated your experiences, the recruiter would like to know you better as a person. According to Nicanor P. Esguerra, Jr., senior recruitment officer of Convergys, your answers to these questions will exhibit your self-

QUESTIONS/P. 2★★★

What's inside

Getting along with the boss
p. 3★★★

In my name

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

I'VE worked in an office where people seemed at home praying together in small groups. Every Monday morning, they'd come together to begin the work week praying. Didn't matter how many of them were around—the most they could gather was seven—as long as there were two persons, they'd begin. I noticed that these little prayer sessions would be very solemn, with each member reaching down to their deepest selves during the "faith sharing" portion. This would be the part where they would recall when, where, or how God touched their lives in the week just concluded. I admit that I myself, who am not in the habit of "sharing," loosened up in their company because they were so earnest there seemed to be no room or time left to judge others.

What sort of puzzled me was, the very same people who would in small prayer groups display such an intimate relationship with God would turn to entirely different creatures in a larger crowd, like an office party, a sporting event, etc. They would become pranksters, braggarts and rumormongers, their fangs and claws showing beneath their polite masks. Jesus says in today's Gospel "...where two or three are gathered... there am I in the midst of them..." But why is it than in the workplace, when the "two or three" people became 200 or 300, their halos would dim? Was it because of the number? Would 'bad company' influence the believer? As I observed, it's not the number alone, nor the company, that determined the behavior of the persons. Whether it's two or two million, the fervor would burn just as bright if each member is there for Jesus, the central figure that animates and sacrifices a crowd. Notice He said "...gathered together in my name..."? Maybe they should remember this next time Congress meets. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

ILLUSTRATION BY ANTHONY MISTADES

Gospel: Matthew 18: 15-20

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Working for unity

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

WHEN I travel abroad, some of the sights I find beautiful are the joyful and lively gatherings of Filipino workers and their families in parks or churches, celebrating a fiesta of a favorite patron saint or a birthday of a friend or coworker. These social gatherings abound with songs and laughter, food and drinks, and games and dances—all telling of the beauty of unity and communion. Many tired and often overworked Filipinos look forward to these joyous and life-giving gatherings, where somehow they get the needed relaxation and strength to continue bearing the heavy burdens of work.

Can this enjoyment also be had at work? Can the workplace not provide the same joy and life-giving experience to everyone as he performs his ordinary rounds of work and meet targeted work output? Can the gathering of people in a workplace not be transformed into a "celebration" of people united with one another and for a great and noble purpose?

I think that when everyone in the workplace believes in Jesus' words in today's Gospel and works together in His name, doing one's job not just for pay but for the "greater glory of God," accepting work-related burdens and difficulties as an offering of a living sacrifice and worship to the Lord and Master of life, then, work becomes a joyful and life-giving communion with the others. Everyone becomes not just an ordinary worker but one who brings about true unity—a communion of people in Jesus. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

September 4, 2005

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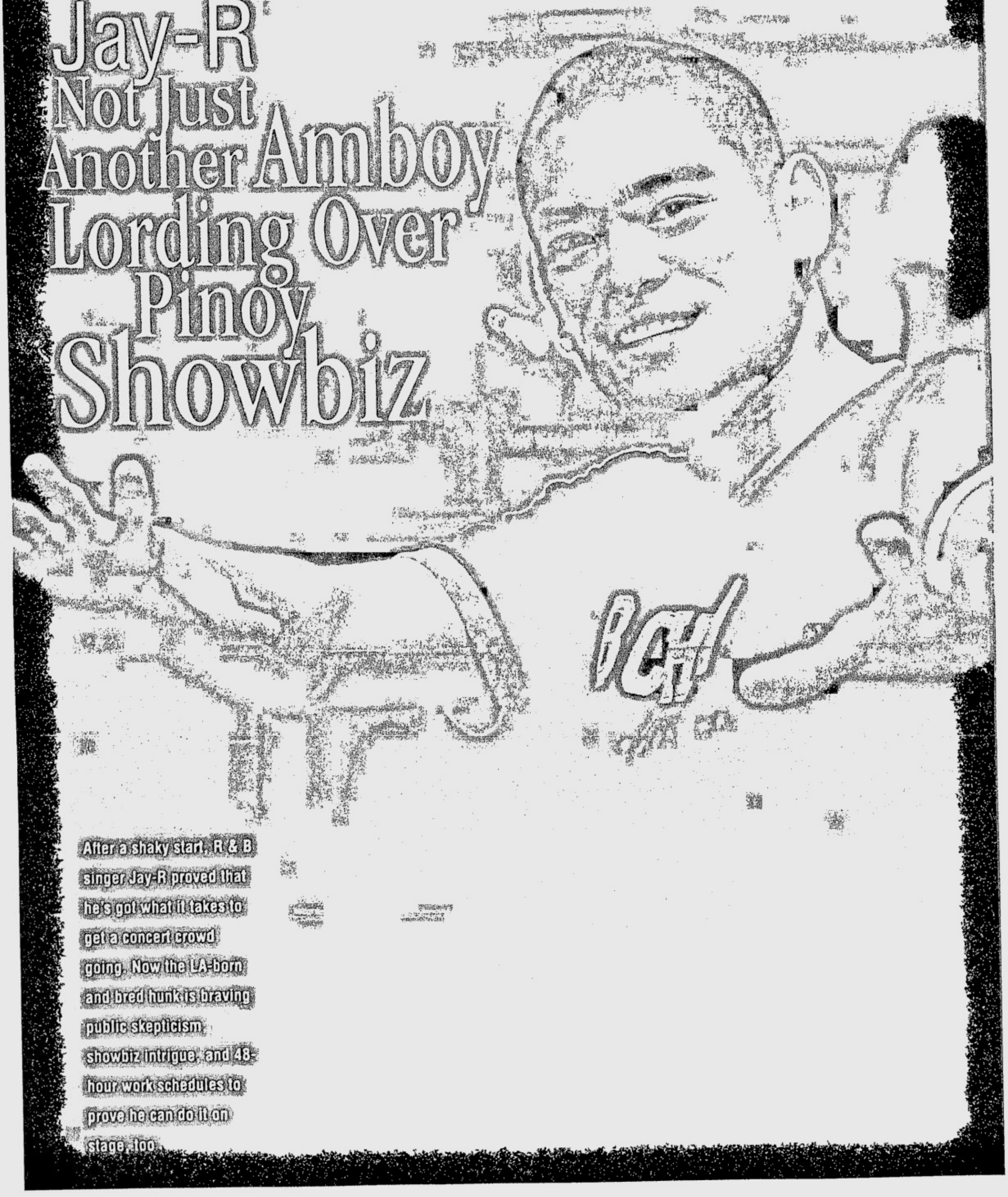
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

Jay-R Not Just Another Amboy Lording Over Pinoy Showbiz



After a shaky start, R & B singer Jay-R proved that he's got what it takes to get a concert crowd going. Now the LA-born and bred hunk is braving public skepticism, showbiz intrigue, and 48-hour work schedules to prove he can do it on stage, too

by Cora Llamas
photograph by Romy Homillada

WHEN Stages producer Audie Gemora decided to cast the fast-rising R & B singer Jay-R for the lead in his new musical, he had to steel himself against a barrage of criticism. Well-meaning and not-so-well-meaning voices in the entertainment and theater industries warned him that his so-called main draw was the proverbial pain in the neck. It was, they said, that now familiar case of a young artist's fame going to his head. To Gemora's happy surprise, a few weeks into rehearsals proved the detractors wrong. Jay-R went to work and learned his lines, mixed with the eager-beaver cast who were kids his own age, and exhibited "no attitude problem."

Which only confirmed Gemora's gut feel as early as December of last year when he started casting, and felt that Jay-R was perfect for the role of the rebellious noncomformist Ren McCormick in the dance musical "Footloose," opening in September.

"'Footloose' is the the story of this misfit in a hick town," Gemora expounds. "Jay-R is that—he's this Amboy fitting into Philippine entertainment. He's misunderstood—I've been warned that he's difficult to work with—but he's a super nice kid. Jay-R lives the role."

The 24-year-old Filipino-American who was born and raised in Los Angeles smiles sheepishly when mention is made of his enemies, known and unknown. He even volunteers the fact that he has discovered a couple of "hate Jay-R" websites dedicated to fanning fury, as opposed to fervor, for him. "I do have a lot of haters," he sighs. His Taglish, still coated with that American accent, is punctuated with a lot of "*pos.*" "*Mayabang daw po ako* (They say I'm arrogant), but all that gives me more inspiration to show them that what they're thinking is wrong."

He says he has learned to shrug away these missiles thrown his way, just as he has learned to take in stride the gossip that links him to a

To page 2

'Maldita' on a Roll with 'Wheel of Fortune', *p.5* • Life May Be a Drag, But There's Always Helen Cruz, *p.6*

Jay-R ...from page 1

new star every now and then. Sometimes, the rumor mill becomes a bit more vicious and hints of an infant or two born out of wedlock. "There's too much work," he says dismissively. "I got no time for a relationship."

That might be a bit of an understatement. This Prince of R & B, as the music industry has dubbed him, goes home at three in the morning and gets up six hours later for a full day's work of music recording, photo shoots and interviews, his TV stints, and now "Footloose." He admits there are times that he has to go for 48 hours without sleep.

History made

The wags of envious tongues aside, life has been good to Gaudencio Sillona III. As he recounts it, Universal Records asked him to come to the Philippines after hearing an album he cut in the US. A major network made a deal with him, and history was made.

The screaming fans, the lucrative endorsements, the billboards that line every major highway in the country—all these are a far cry from what he describes as a very modest childhood. His growing-up years in California along with seven other siblings weren't exactly a trouble-free trip down the Yellow Brick Road. As Jay-R remembers it, the family was "very poor." His parents left the Philippines nearly 30 years ago and, like all other immigrants, had to work "from the ground up. We were a bit lower than average. Dad was a photographer, and mom was a secretary." There wasn't a lot of money that could be spared for toys, and the few that Jay-R got, "I embraced and appreciated."

Though Mrs. Sillona forbade her children from working during their high school years and asked them to concentrate on their schooling, Jay-R did pound the keyboard after he got his diploma as a data encoder. Had he not gotten into music, he would have gotten into Computer Engineering. There was a time he studied it at the Devry University in the US.

What the Sillona family had in abundance was musical talent. His father played the piano, and his uncle had a band which the teenage Jay-R joined during his spare time. At an early age, he found that he loved singing and dancing, especially breakdancing.

His first musical influences were Stevie Wonder, Whitney Houston. Gladys Knight and the Pips, but ultimately it was the Philippines' own Gary Valenciano that inspired him to go full force on his musical journey.

High point

Seeing Mr. Energy himself in swinging action made him realize, "I wanted to dance like him." Jay-R would get his wish years later, as the two sang and danced a duet in front of thousands of screaming fans at the Araneta Coliseum. To the young Fil-Am who had provided back-up vocals and co-wrote songs with American artists since he was 16, that one night remains a high point in his life.

Jay-R and the "Footloose" cast kick off their Sunday shoes

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Sillona kids may have spent their entire lives in the US, but their parents made sure they never forgot their roots. Tagalog was spoken at home, and homegrown Pinoy values of humility and family were ingrained amidst a cultural environment that encouraged aggressive individuality. "My parents always taught me that everyone's equal, the same no matter if they're rich or poor," he remembers.

That Pinoy inculturation also has a hand in his choice of a prospective mate. Asked what kind of girl would turn this swinging single's life, Jay-R grins, "*Dapat mabait.* (She has to have a good heart.) A girl becomes more beautiful if she's *mabait.* She should get along with my parents. I've had a couple of girlfriends—Pinay—who didn't get along with my mom, it was a nightmare. *Gusto ko magka-*vibes *sila.*"

Apparently, he remains close to his folks, especially his Mom, who wants "all the magazines, the write-ups, the tabloids, *lahat ng litrato ng* billboard" of the products he endorses. The elder Sillonas have done better by themselves, creating a comfortable life away from the hardship of the first few years of slugging it out in the US. "Now they have a beautiful house, nice cars and diamond rings. *Masipag sila.* (They're industrious.)"

Stardom's blessings

He is as unabashedly enthused about the blessings that stardom has given him, like a kid opening his Christmas presents. "You do get a lot of nice free stuff." But what he couldn't forget—aside from that performance with Valenciano—are 8,000 voices cheering for him in his solo concert at the Folk Arts Theater. "I wasn't peeking from behind the stage because I was afraid to look." But when he did saunter out on stage, "there was this sea of people." The awe as he relives the experience never leaves his voice.

Hopefully, he'll get the same reaction when the curtains open in "Footloose." He admits, "It's the hardest project I've ever done in the Philippines." With theater paying only a fraction of what he normally gets for concert and TV appearances, Jay-R says he considers it further training in singing and dancing.

After "Footloose," two movies are in the pipeline: a comedy where he plays the Amboy third wheel in a love triangle, and a fantasy that pits him as a sword-wielding supervillain against Bong Revilla. Closer to his heart is Back Home Records, his own record label ("I am my first artist").

"I don't know for how long I can do this," Jay-R says of his impossibly hectic schedule. But like his "misfit" counterpart in the musical, it looks like he's not stopping any time soon, or staying rooted in one spot as soon as he lands.

"Footloose," a Stages production, runs for four weeks at the Meralco Theater starting the first weekend of September. Call tel. nos. 635-4478 or 631-7252

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UTAGE WEEKEND BUFFET

Makati Shangri-La launches Utage, a Japanese expression used to describe a lavish celebration, featuring a buffet that highlights the authenticity of Inagiku's menu. Savor generous versions of Awabi Sakamushi (steamed abalone mushroom paired with refreshing sake wine), Sushi and Sashimi Moriawase, Tempura Moriawase, Teppan-Yaki Hireniku and the Sukiyaki. For inquiries, call 813-8888 loc. 7842. *For more of This Week, see page 7*

She

She comes with horns and tail
In nightmare.
Made of air.
Yet on film such

Lissomeness she carries
Heaven when she walks
(On all fours she is
The metamorphosis)

Hair done or undone,
True to the touch
And true only to her looks
Till she comes with horns

(Not the moon)
And tail (not the comet)
Someone no woman has met
In the mirror.

Cesar Ruiz Aquino

60-Second Cityscape

Each car is a blur of light
on railways of electric thought.

The site across is a skeletal mammoth,
in a month a mastodon mall.

A woman with a wooden paddle
chases after a man. From her mouth
shoot forth bright expletives
more numerous than the stars.

It is midnight.
The moon is a white saucer
spilling soy sauce on the pot-holed
tablecloth of the streets.
A mendicant
makes a mattress out of the concrete.

By the tenement gate a neighbor
watches,
a septuagenarian with a cat
licking his yellowing bones.

Angelo V. Suarez

Erratum:

In "The Keeper of Lola Basyang's Stories for Today's Readers," SIM, 28 August 2005, Christine S. Bellen was mistakenly described as having earned her doctorate from the University of the Philippines. She has an MA from UP, and is currently working towards her Ph.D. Dr. Bienvenido Lumbera was not her thesis adviser but her critic: Ms. Bellen's adviser is Luna Sicat. SIM regrets the errors.

Noteworthy

An Invitation from CMY

Help this special 'welcome shed' for displaced city youth continue its work

The Center for Migrant Youth (CMY) will celebrate its 23rd anniversary on Sept. 18 and 25 during the 9 a.m. Sunday Masses at 103 Cordillera Street, SMH, Quezon City before the Center moves to another address in December.

CMY is simply a "welcome shed" in the city for provincial street vagrants (age 15-20) who have been displaced in the city and abused by city dwellers. It started as a halfway shelter for young rehabilitated first offenders and mentally impaired out-patients with no relatives here.

CMY serves as a place of prayer and discernment for battered youths—a space where they can quietly grieve and heal their wounds, and from where they are gently urged to move on and face again what remains of their young lives.

CMY also discreetly welcomes the so-called "footloose" street people, especially children and youth, to spend rainy nights and take a meal or two with us, to take a badly-needed bath and to wash and dry their clothes before they return to the streets again.

CMY deliberately remains a small community of 20 residents at a time, formerly unwashed and unwanted migrant and street youth who have accepted our invitation to go back to school (primary, secondary and college), and who have managed to prove their worth.

We thank those who have offered to help CMY to sustain our mission in whatever way they can. Simply, there are two components: Sustenance and Education Assistance. Sustenance pertains to the physical and survival maintenance and upkeep of our house; and Education Assistance pertains to the scholarship needs of the CMY residents.

There are no fixed and mandated donations required. Just give like "giving alms to the poor" from your heart, and CMY will be gratedul. You may give periodically or "once and for all," and for our 23rd anniversary building needs, and CMY will be grateful to you indeed.

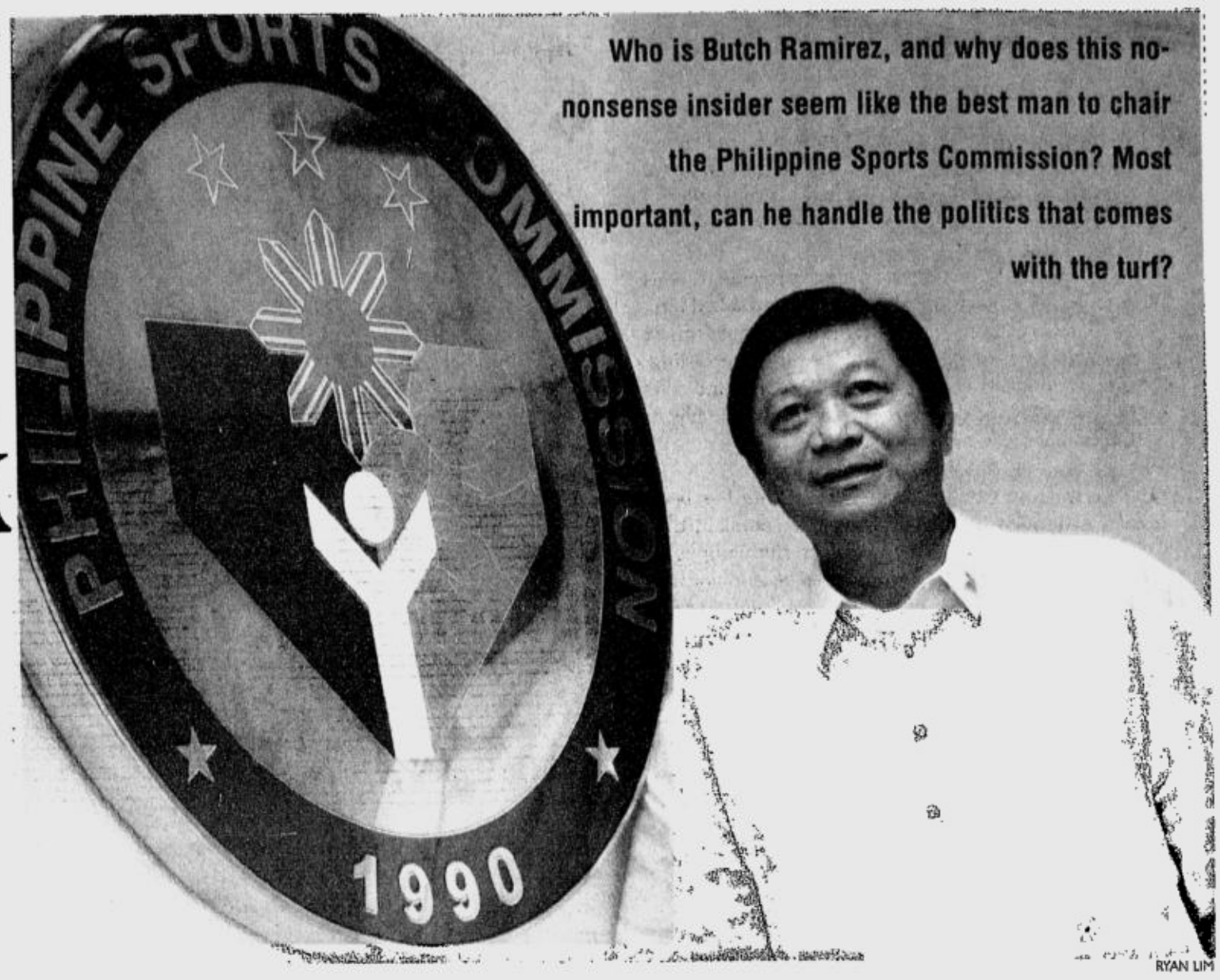
God knows your heart, and He will be faithful to you. Just think of us loving you and remembering you when we pray.

CMY's new address beginning December: #15 Goldman Street, East Fairview Village, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City.

Fr. Ben Villote

by Jasmine W. Payo

The New Kid On the (Sports) Block is No Rookie



Who is Butch Ramirez, and why does this no-nonsense insider seem like the best man to chair the Philippine Sports Commission? Most important, can he handle the politics that comes with the turf?

RYAN LIM

SPORTS politics isn't as confounding as the circus that is the House of Congress. But it seems that way at times to Philippine Sports Commission chair William "Butch" Ramirez.

"We're at that point in the history of sports when nobody believes in sports leaders anymore. We're at a crossroad. No one believes that we'll perform," says Ramirez.

Thus, Ramirez thought of an ingenious way of proving his sincerity by actually living with the athletes.

"I've been staying at the athletes' quarters in Ultra," shares the Davao del Sur native. "My purpose was to get along with the athletes. It's just one room and I stay there with my wife. My children are all grown up."

A high-ranking government official living a spartan life sure does sound like an urban legend. So naturally, many eyebrows were raised.

"I have no house in Manila," Ramirez insists. "People have been saying, oh come on, chairman, you can have a condo left and right. In fact, there was one official who came into my room and saw it was very simple. He said, *kawawa ka naman* (pity you), chairman. But I promised to myself that if I cannot make a comfortable room for my athletes, I will not long for a beautiful house."

Ramirez stresses that it's no gimmick. Life has been modest, he says, since he moved to Manila to work as a PSC official five years ago.

"Even when I was still commissioner, I've been sleeping in the quarters along with some employees," notes Ramirez. "It was an old room and the carpet wasn't really clean. So now, I have acquired asthma. It was the price I paid for being commissioner. It's different here compared to Davao."

But aside from adjusting to the environment, Ramirez learned that he also had to work in an unsettling political landscape.

Unconventional views

"Working as a commissioner, I discovered a lot of shenanigans," says Ramirez. "I felt there was no public servant who would like to serve sports. I ended up independent from the board because I didn't share the same management setup with some of them. I was an outcast. For example, I never went to any SEA Games because there should only be one official there. I've always thought of it as a junket."

Such unconventional views, of course, didn't go well with some officials in the rigid institution. So it came as no surprise that his ascent to the highest post in local sports didn't come easy.

When former PSC chair Eric Buhain transferred to the Games and Amusement Board early this year, some wondered why Ramirez's name cropped up in the short list of possible replacements.

It seemed like a long shot for the 55-year-old official, who was pitted against some of the big names in local sports, including former senator and Philippine Basketball Association's "Living Legend" Robert Jaworski.

"Everyone was asking, who is Butch Ramirez?" he recalls. "But compared to the other candidates, I was an insider. I was here as commissioner so I know the ins and outs. I believed I had an edge. I know I'm capable. I'm a sports educator and I have the proper knowledge."

But Ramirez knew that realistically, a solid resume wasn't enough to nail the position he was aspiring for.

"I was praying for it," he says. "But the President didn't know me. There were political backings, I admit. But I'm not ashamed to say that I came here with competence, credibility and a heart to make a difference."

Despite all the good intentions—and finding the right alliances—Ramirez still didn't get the appointment he hoped for right away. He was first named officer-in-charge, a seeming dry run for the diligent but relatively unknown leader.

"I was determined," shares Ramirez. "The President only gave me two months. But I told them to give me an extra month to prove that I can do it. So when I sat down, I was so focused."

It turned out to be a tough five-month trial period, but Ramirez stresses he had faced adversity all his life.

Growing up in Mindanao, Ramirez was the seventh in a brood of 12. His father was a policeman, while his mother worked in the school canteen.

"Although my parents were educated, we grew up in poverty," he says.

Like the rest of the family, Ramirez did his share to augment the family income at an early age.

"I was already cleaning households when I was in Grade 2," he says. "There was a strong inclination to work on our own. We learned the values of frugality, discipline and patience early on. Like when I graduated in high school, I just borrowed a *barong Tagalog* from a lawyer and the pants from a teacher."

The material comforts may not have been enough, yet Ramirez recalls a happy childhood. "I was active in extra curricular activities. I was a boy scout, an altar boy and I was playing basketball in the varsity team," he says.

Most powerful man

But in his junior year in high school, Ramirez decided to enter the seminary.

"I was inspired by the French-Canadian priests in our school. Even the mayors in our town go to church, and I thought that the priest must be the most powerful man in the community. Plus, you're close to the Lord. I was also happy being watched by the girls as an altar boy," he chuckles. "But after more than two years, I realized I wasn't called for that."

Ramirez went on to take up AB History, minor in English Literature at St. Michael's College, but ended up teaching economics to high school girls at Maryknoll in Davao del Norte.

Along the way, he met his future wife Mercy, and they tried their luck in Manila to find a "serious job."

"I became a medical representative, a detailman, which is a highly specialized salesmanship to doctors," says Ramirez. "It was more of a need, for the survival of our family."

Moving from one company to another, Ramirez says his big bosses usually weren't quite pleased with him.

"I only reached supervisor because I was very honest in revealing the *kalokohan* of our managers, even in a national conference," says Ramirez. "I was always center-left. I was always frank. But I realized that if you're frank, you're put at a disadvantage in the corporate world. I thought, this isn't my life, so I went back to Davao."

Ramirez soon decided to go back to the academe. But this time, he wanted to cross over from the classroom to the hardcourt. In 1990, he became the head coach of the varsity team of the Ateneo de Davao.

"I looked so *mayabang* (arrogant). Unlike most coaches then, I read a lot. I spent 10 years in Ateneo de Davao—six years as coach, then four years as athletic director," recalls Ramirez, who also completed a Master's degree in Public Administration in the same university.

The imposing mentor soon got his first taste of public service when Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte tapped him as a sports consultant.

In 1998, Ramirez met former PSC chair Butch Tuazon, who asked him to serve as regional sports director in Mindanao.

One bold move

But now that he's the top honcho of the controversy-ridden agency, Ramirez has been suggesting and implementing one bold move after another. "We had a strategic planning meet and we re-engineered the PSC," he notes. "We did not renew a lot of consultants and contractuals. There were sensitive positions that I fired. My profile as a nice guy changed. People are now afraid that I will fire them. But I have to manifest leadership."

He also outlined his plans for the local athletes—from providing clean toilets in their quarters to building a sports institute for a scientific talent identification program. There were also quite contentious suggestions, such as cutting the agency's money-incentive program for the athletes.

"Many athletes are poor," he says. "Most of them haven't finished school, not even a two-year course. But I'm against giving money incentive to athletes who win competitions. I know they need it but I would prefer that they be given proper housing or Medicare. These are long term. Money is too easy to spend."

Clearly, Ramirez doesn't mind going with the unpopular view. But how does he roll with the punches? "I've been criticized by my colleagues as a two-faced liar. Instead of talking back, I just think that what I'm doing is for the majority. But I still get hurt with the criticisms, especially if they're not true. I did not get rich in public service. I have not abused anyone," Ramirez notes.

Luckily (or perhaps unluckily, for some), Ramirez is not about to give up. "I don't want to fail those who believe in me," he says. "I know my term is temporary but while I'm here, I've learned that you can work well, without stealing. *Malaking bagay ang* values and lifestyle. I'm no saint, but it helps if your lifestyle is modest and simple and your values are very strong.

"We are confronted with a challenge of good leadership," Ramirez adds. "If people who claim to be good surrender to the pressure of evils, who else will be left?"

As chair of the Commission on Elections, shouldn't Ben Abalos be part of the 'Hello, Garci' tapes, ask political analysts, perplexed by his absence from the center of controversy. And considering his long association with President Arroyo, shouldn't the man be the first ally she'd turn to? Where oh where was Abalos when one needed a henchman?

RAFFY LERMA

Controversies

by Gerry Lirio

Is Abalos Missing in Action, or Just Out of the Loop?

"HELLO, Ben? Hello!?"

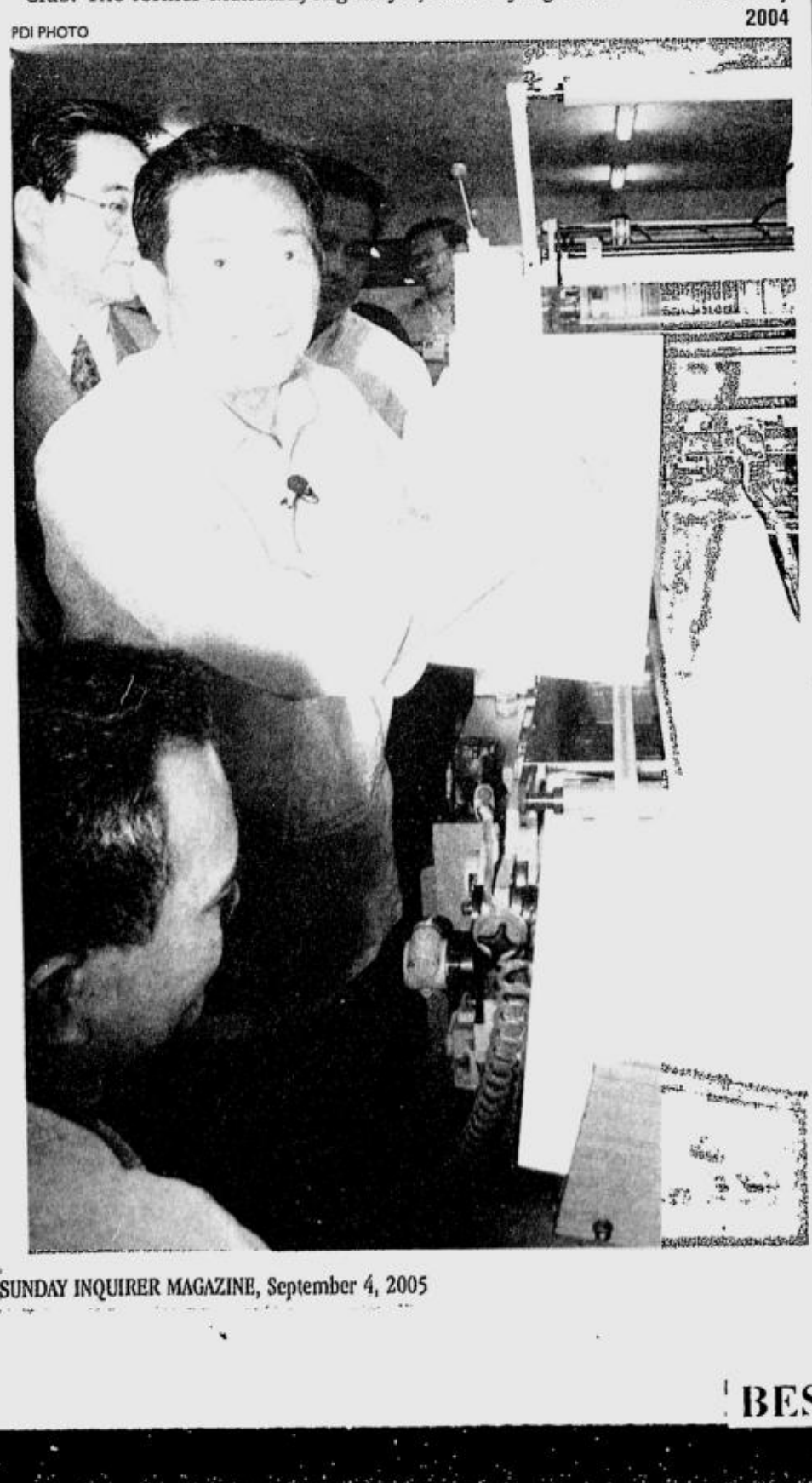
If there was one thing missing in the wiretapping controversy, this was the fact that there were no "Hello, Abalos," just "Hello, Garci" tapes. Either President Macapagal-Arroyo did not call Commission on Elections chair Benjamin Abalos, or no one in the military found him worthy of being recorded at the height of the canvassing in the May 2004 elections. Or simply put, Abalos could be out of the loop.

Either way, Abalos, 70, is not happy about the Comelec being at the center of the political controversy threatening to break the country apart. Why didn't the President talk to him instead, one asks, to which Abalos could only say: "I don't know. She probably couldn't reach me."

But how could anyone miss him? Abalos has been leading a public life these past 31 years. Aside from being Comelec boss, he is chair of the Wack-Wack Golf and Country Club. The former Mandaluyong mayor, former judge and former fiscal also used to chair the Metro Manila Development Authority.

"She couldn't reach me": Showing off official ballots in February 2004

PDI PHOTO



When Abalos was the top Mandaluyong official, Ms Arroyo would call him "mayor," while he called her *"hija."* When she became a Trade and Industry official, she started calling him *"Mang* Ben" and he started calling her "Ms Arroyo." When she became vice president, she was calling him "Ben" and he was calling her "Ma'm." With such a long association, critics naturally assumed that "Ma'am" would call on the Comelec chair first before she turned to a mere commissioner. Yet Abalos' name was mentioned just once—and in passing—in the infamous 32-minute tape.

Wire tap ruckus

Abalos took the top Comelec post in June 2002, two years before Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano joined the body. It could well be said that the wiretap ruckus somehow released Abalos from suspicions that he and Garci were birds of a feather.

"I am not a saint, but I am not dirty," he says, referring to his many years in government service "Somehow, I am a little bit thankful I was not part of the tape. But I think my critics have grown in number because of this."

Abalos has always had a great number of critics, even if he has always been a soft-spoken man. He was fired as a fiscal in 1966 shortly after acting on a complaint filed against the chief justice. "I was dismissed because I summoned the chief justice," he recalls. "I believe that regardless of the power, position and influence of the named respondents, a common man's plea for justice must be considered."

Abalos was reinstated and became a judge a few years later. But he resigned after finding himself and his patron at odds over some political issues. "I had some differences with my political benefactor. So I resigned and then campaigned against him. It would not have looked good if I stayed in office and went against him," he says. He ran for mayor several years before Edsa 1 and won the elections, he claims, but lost in the counting.

Political comeback

In 1986, Abalos was appointed Mandaluyong officer-in-charge by then Interior and Local Government Secretary Aquilino Pimentel Jr. He ran and beat the same political opponent in the 1987 elections and the subsequent mayoral elections. "My opponent who cheated me failed to make a political comeback," he says.

But it was when he was the top official of Mandaluyong that he first tasted controversy. He was charged with 36 cases of various offenses, ranging from arson to graft, most of them involving the Mandaluyong Public Market. Not one of the charges prospered, he says.

To the contrary, Abalos claims that he has largely cleaned up the city's image. "In the past, when people hear we're from Mandaluyong, they joke, *taga-loob o taga-labas?* (in or out of the National Mental Hospital?)" he says, referring to the only prominent structure in Mandaluyong before his time.

"We didn't have a decent movie house," he adds. "We had one, but you'd go there only if you wanted to get sick. We had to go to Manila or Greenhills if we had a family celebration or class reunion. Now, things are a lot different. If only for what I did for Mandaluyong, I want to be remembered most for being its mayor."

True-blue Mandaluyong

Abalos is indeed a true-blue Mandaluyong boy. He was born on September 21, 1935 in the town then considered a poor cousin of Manila, Makati, and Greenhills. He graduated with highest honors at the Mandaluyong Elementary School and finished high school at the Jose Rizal College in only three years, again with the highest honors.

To help support his law studies at the Manuel L. Quezon University, Abalos worked as a caddie at the Wack-Wack Golf and Country Club. He finished law at 21 after five years of study instead of the regular six years, including the preparatory course, despite his being a working student.

In 2000, the millionaires of Wack-Wack, most of them business executives, elected him club president. He is now on his second term. "It is the best accolade for me—that those whom I served as a caddie would now want me to be their leader. That speaks volume of their trust in me," he says.

That might as well be the case in the "Hello, Garci!" tapes, where Abalos' missing voice speaks volumes as well of the man's character.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

y:Rojas

Maldita' A Roll with el of Fortune'

RAFFY LERMA

spared from an event of catastrophic e the inestimable death and damage r tsunami that swept the vacation par- Thailand last Christmas, it is impossible om the incident unchanged.

ie Gil, who saw the first giant wave while sip- second floor of the seafront resort where she re spending the holidays, the tragedy proved a ce, a wake-up call to what really matters.

my life, I'm trying to be as close and as true to ." says the tall, slim and raspy-voiced actress in a hotel lobby café. Humbled by the bless- life, she is interested in getting herself and her something philanthropic, community service le." Squabbles with her husband Roni Rogoff, nductor whom she has been married to for 11 vn seven years prior, meanwhile, are thankful- reen. "After 18 years we now know how to live having to fight so often about the silliest les: "Personally, I had this realization of quiet don't mean ironing his clothes or following is slippers. I mean the realization of being sub- .is; to accept his journey, and that whatever om his choices are not for me to fight or bat-

quiet submission are also how Gil has been manifestations of her own life's journey. She's ki Belo, agreeing to endorse the high-profile er hair removal treatment. Body hair, she ad- has been a perennial problem since way back. r the machine keeps breaking down every time nt! But I have no more hair here, here, and cs proudly while pointing to different parts of lem area? "My legs!" she shrieks.

r role as image model of Maldita, an elegant ine once carried by actress Ara Mina. If there ng as a perfect fit, this is it: While owners Eric had been eyeing the actress as their muse, their from the very start, Gil (who was about to gn) needed no convincing when the offer to s came up. "I didn't even have to check them me alone," she smiles. "It culminated all the *maldita*."

Classic character

larly excited about the endorsement, it's be- will allow her to flesh out her latest role to her e character portrayed by Tita de Villa in the of the classic soap opera "*Gulong Ng Palad* Gil was not exactly thrilled about the pro- o defy the concept in our industry that once a certain age, she can only play a mother." The hen the soap's think tanks opened up to her big input of mine was that I didn't have to look *matrona*," she says. "This is a remake, so we . we have to stay faithful to the story. All I can rization." This she intends to do with outfits an's strength and femininity: think tops with a inspiration, long, low-rise boot-cut pants, and essories. "All of which I

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hip "Matrona": Gil in the campaign for Maldita

ly fortysomething ac- hed dress sense has magazines to elevate So she's a *matrona* and e's also very hip."

acter is a *kontrabida* rise. An accomplished stimated 45 films and her credit, Gil is cine- jour, a reputation she ly from her striking, d on the big screen as stayed evil" in "Cofra- hich paired Gil's broth- a with his now former Alajar. In "City After jockey shorts, a man's gué pants to play "the ke drug pusher Kano." ta," she was Trining, a ive the war. And in "*Bi- mgning*," where she ambitious Lavinia Ar- it the cattiest quote ev- *ontrabida*. "I'll charge hen she's urged to re- rying-hard copycat" on "*Baka gawin mong* ring rtal line, which was he script, was co-creat- r Tommy Abuel while

Having healed from the emotional turmoil of last December's tsunami in Phuket, Thailand, actress Cherie Gil continues her life's journey with, among other blessings, a settled family life and the possibility of playing roles other than the quintessential villainess

the two were improvising between takes.)

Few people recall the rare times Gil has portrayed a good girl on-screen. Ishmael Bernal's "Girlfriend" is a case in point: As a factory worker torn between two loves—the rich Mat Ranillo III and the poor Al Tantay whom she picks in the end—the movie flopped at the box office. "It was a good and well-made film," she assesses. "But it was boring for Filipinos because it was a straight-acting drama."

Funny person

As convincing as she is, however, Gil does occasionally tire of playing the bad girl. "I wouldn't if they were written differently," she reasons. If she had her way, she'll gladly take on a role similar to Teri Hatcher's single mom searching for love in "Desperate Housewives." Gil, who was once a part of Subas Herrero and Noel Trinidad's gag show "Champoy," likes to be funny, and actually is in person.

She can also be very vulnerable. As the wicked Sea Witch who slowly sinks to her death in the ABS-CBN fantaserye "Marina," Gil was more afraid of the water than her handlers were of her; a friend, she explains, had just suffered a serious accident while scuba diving. "So while they were teaching me the hand signals for "so-so," "OK," "up," and "down," I said, 'No, you're missing out on something. I can also do this,'" she says and sticks out her middle finger, "if you f_ck up with me.'" *Hay naku*, sighed the scuba divers in relief, *tao din pala si* Cherie. "Everything I do on film, it's all image," she shrugs.

Indeed, distinguishing between real and reel was never easy in a household where your father is Elvis Presley of the Philippines-turned-evangelist Eddie Gil, your mother is intense dramatic actress Rosemarie Gil, and your brothers are Mark Gil and Michael de Mesa.

As the youngest and only girl, Evangeline Rose Eigenmann (so named because she was born in the year her father received an acting award and numerous showbiz offers) loved school, particularly extracurricular activities. Soon, the youngster found herself more on movie sets than on the St. Paul campus where she went as far as her second year in high school. "It was inevitable. I never even had a chance to decide," says Gil, who guested regularly in her father's variety show "Stop, Look and Listen," and had a hosting stint with teen idol Dondon Nakar called "Super Young Stars." As she grew older, she planned to take up psychology. "But the pull of the business was just much more interesting," she says. "And the jobs just kept coming."

Quieter life

Even her own marriage to Rogoff sounds surreal, like an episode from "Dynasty" or "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous." Introduced by a mutual friend in 1988, Cherie and Roni maintained a long-distance relationship for years, meeting up in Spain, Venezuela or wherever it was he performed. Upon their marriage in 1994, she packed her bags and traded her colorful actress life for a quieter one as wife and mother in suburban New York. She even took on regular jobs, though it was clear from the get-go that this was not your average employee. As a telemarketer who sold clubhouse shares, she drove a Mercedes-Benz and was a top seller after two and a half weeks. "*Madaldal, eh*" (I was talkative), she giggles. "So even with my voice, I was acting my role already." As for her spell as a coat checker in a five-star restaurant, she baffled her bosses by fine-dining there on her free days with her husband. "Who is this chick?" they wondered.

Rogoff, who was putting an orchestra together, began traveling extensively again, so the family moved to Italy in 1997, first to Vicenza and then to Venice. Though Gil fell instantly in love and became part of the new territory, she was still a Filipina at heart. "In Europe, there's always a need to converse, which is good because you have a lot of growth and stimulation. But I missed the *kababawan* of our jokes, the sensibilities of the Pinoy way."

Thus the Rogoffs moved to Manila where they have been since late 2002. It's a situation that suits this family fine: their three kids—UP architecture major Jay, budding actress Bianca and Raphael, a wise-beyond-his-years vegetarian—all attend school here. Roni is content to travel, and does so four to five times a year. And Cherie, of course, is back to acting. "That's the best part about being with someone as mature as my husband," she says. "When he met me, he knew I was already an actor and that it was a part of me that I couldn't run away from or ever say goodbye to." It was Rogoff, in fact, who reminded his wife why she was starting to get hungry during her TV and movie breaks, something she had never felt in her earlier years. "Of course," he said matter-of-factly. "That is your home."

That Gil still hungers for a role that will excite her anew, meanwhile, indicates that the journey for this enduring actress—and for that matter, wife, mother, sister, daughter and friend—is far from over. "This is not the end of the line, this is not the last stop," she insists. "How do we know where we're going to go from here? How do we know what's going to happen tomorrow? Everything is temporary. I'd like to think," she says with a smile, "that there is always another adventure to look forward to."

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

by Menchu Aquino Sarmiento

Life May Be a Drag, But There's Always Helen Cruz

Belle of the ball in the '60s (above) and still keeping her feminine mystique today (left)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

She had to run away from a comfortable life in Davao to release the queen in her. But the exquisite performer formerly known as Pablito knew she would be a hit in Manila and indeed, in the '60s, she lit up even the parties in Malacañang

BEFORE Facifica Falayfay, the Coco Banana coquettes, and all the lissome lip-synching wannabes who came trailing after in their six-inch stiletto heels, there was Helen Cruz. She was the quintessential drag queen, a true man-made beauty who carried herself with the pride and aplomb of a real lady who was always treated like one.

Cruz's transformation was so consummate that she became the lie that tells the truth. The late Marcos political rival and presidential aspirant, Serging Osmeña, had no qualms about asking Helen to entertain Indonesian President Sukarno for an evening of dinner and dancing at the Madrid Restaurant. That encounter ended with a chaste kiss, but Cruz had many other more memorable evenings. In her time, she danced the tango with Ricardo Montalban, twisted the night away with Chubby Checker, and did a 77 Sunset Strip with California boy toy Troy Donahue. Her rosebud was tickled as well by the original "Citizen Kane," Orson Welles, and did she ever have a ball with the Harlem GlobeTrotters and NBA star Gayle Goodrich. As for Yul Brynner, it was etcetera, etcetera and so forth.

"I was such a naughty girl," Cruz reminisces. "But like Edith Piaf said, no regrets. I so enjoyed living my life out loud. With the men in my life, I always made the rules. And the Number One Rule is, I never make the first move. It has worked for me."

But to come out and let the world know just what she had to show, Helen first had to run away. She was born Pablito in 1929, the youngest son among four boys and four girls in a traditional Catholic family. They were comfortably bourgeois, as the padre de familia was an official with the Department of Finance. Even as a young boy growing up in Davao, Pablito felt s/he was different. Although s/he excelled in sports such as track and field and their rather autocratic father made sure s/he knew the manly art of self defense, Cruz kept getting suspended at the Ateneo de Davao for smooching with boyfriends on campus. The family wouldn't stand for it. Pablito/Helen was a college sophomore in AB Commerce at the Ateneo de Davao, on the way to becoming a respectable businessman in the family mold, when s/he decided to cut loose and break free. S/he ran away to Manila and never looked back.

Fruit selling fruit

Pablito was fresh off the boat just as the Ever Loyal and Most Devastated City was rebuilding itself from the ruins of the Second World War. The erstwhile Atenistà first worked as a messenger for the Caltex Corporation. S/he met others of her kind and started wearing women's clothing all the time.

"I was a fruit selling fruit in the San Andres Market," s/he laughs. "And was I ever good at it! I wore my hair down to my waist and was the picture of the *dalagang Pilipina*. Customers just couldn't resist my bananas and papayas."

The breakthrough came when Pablito won top prize on "The Big Broadcast," a popular amateur radio singing contest. S/he wore her best frock and had a style all her own. Her prize-winning rendition of "Cry Me a River" so moved the judge, the venerable composer Constancio de Guzman, that he dubbed her "the Julie London of the Philippines." It did not matter that no trans-gendered, cross-dressed chanteuse had ever joined, much less won the top spot on "The Big Broadcast." Pablito had talent and was one of a kind. There was no turning back. Stints on other radio programs like "Student Canteen" followed. Then a family friend, Rose Bastida, the first Mrs. Benigno Toda, invited Pablito to sing at parties at their Forbes Park mansion. S/he was such a compelling performer that Chona Recto (then Ysmael) said s/he should be known as Helen after Helen of Troy, because no man could resist such pulchritude or that siren voice. And so Pablito quietly bowed out of the scene, and Helen Cruz took center stage.

Helen Cruz became a favorite of the sophisticated Forbes Park set who appreciated her wit, style and grace. She became a fixture at the parties of such high society doyennes as Elvira Manahan, Imelda Cojuangco and Dolly Potenciano. On slow weekend nights, the smart set would drive over to her tiny apartment in Remedios Circle, bearing cold drinks and party fare, and have an instant *salu-salo*. Helen, then in what she calls her Doris Day phase, would sashay from car to car, singing á capella under the streetlights. She points out that these impromptu gatherings half a century ago were the forerunners of today's hip street parties.

The gigs also started coming in: at the Opera House, D&E Restaurant, Jade Vine and Aroma Cafe. She even did weddings and some movies. In "Luneta," she catches Nestor de Villa's eye and he pursues her, only to get the shock of his life when she turns out to be a he. In "*Sarhento* Salcedo," a well-meaning FPJ tries to recruit Helen and a bunch of other shemales into the armed forces.

Homecoming Queen

Personal vindication came when Helen was later booked to sing in a Davao Hotel. It was the return of the prodigal son or the homecoming queen, however one chooses to look at it. She was a star attraction along with her back up band: The Five Brown Boys. Her curious family came to watch her perform. It was the first time they were seeing her after many years, and they invited her over for breakfast the next day, a family reunion of sorts. She came, wearing a light summer shift with matching purse and stiletto heels and looking like Audrey Hepburn in "Roman Holiday." Her father, somewhat subdued, asked if she didn't care to change into something more gender appropriate. He wasn't sure how to argue with her success. Helen told her parents that they might have lost a son, but had gained a daughter.

By the dawn of the swinging '60s, Helen was a fixture at supper clubs such as Bulakeña, Bayside and the Nile. These were the watering holes of two generations past, where the most powerful Filipino politicians and tycoons regularly met to cut deals and unwind with "hostesses"—the forerunners of today's guest relations officers (GRO's). But the suits listened when Helen sang, and the applause was never niggardly or forced. She earned a pittance, starting at P12 a day, but the big spenders gave her four times that in one throw. By then her transformation into Helen Cruz was so complete that this was the name that appeared on her passport.

First Lady Imelda Marcos, another woman of singular style, became a fan. Helen cannot count the number of times she was invited to sing in Malacañang but the spectacular parties thrown by the Blue Ladies were not considered complete without Cruz doing a few numbers. She was always treated as a guest at these affairs, and not one of the hired help. One ultra-rich businessman thought he would do her a favor by paying for her sex change operation, but her dear friend and confidante, Gene Puyat, dissuaded her from making such a drastic move. "Remember," he told her. "You are still Helen Cruz even with that thing between your legs."

Enjoy being a girl

Helen realized that though she enjoyed being a girl, she also enjoyed what nature had endowed her with. She has never been surgically or hormonally altered. However one chooses to classify her, she has never been what she calls a sexual convenience. Not surprisingly, her relationship with her significant others have lasted from eight to 12 years. Usually, it's marriage that spelled the end, because Helen has made it a rule not to fall for married men. There are too many fish in the sea for her to make that mistake, she says. "I can't live without love," she quips. "Love makes time pass; but with time, love also passes."

Call her old-fashioned, but Helen believes in keeping her feminine mystique. "I never reveal everything, even in love. There will always be soft lights, music, and myself in a becoming negligee." At this point in her life though, she prefers much younger men. They have to be young to keep up with her.

The younger generation who may have heard of Helen Cruz only from their grandparents will now have a chance to see her at a special one-night-only concert at Merck's Bar in Greenbelt on Sept. 5, 2005. Friends like Pilita Corrales and Richard Merck will perform. Proceeds from the show will help defray the costs of a surgery to remove polyps on Helen's vocal chords. Life may be a drag, but definitely, this old queen is not about to fade away.

Art

Mamaw, a series of 10 watercolor on paper paintings of people depicted as fantastic creatures, friendly monsters and animals by Jill Arwen Posadas at the Alcove of the Boston Gallery, 72 Boston St. corner Lantana St., Cubao, QC. Exhibit runs until Sept. 22.

TV, a collection of Neil Manalo's recent paintings that focus on how televiewing has become part of the Filipino family's everyday life until Sept. 22 at the Boston Gallery. For details, call 722-9205.

"*Pag-asa*" by Neil Manalo, on exhibit at the Boston Gallery

New Directions in Art: Syncretism, The Unique Art, abstract and figurative paintings by Roy Veneracion from Sept. 6 to Oct. 2 at the Mag:net Gallery Paseo, Paseo Center, Paseo de Roxas cor. Sedeño St., Makati City. For details, call 817-7895.

Romulo Olazo, Cris Cruz, Edwin Wilwayco, Cobie Cruz and Rico Lascano are the five artists behind the group exhibit **ARTiculation** at Finale Art File, Pasay Road, Makati City until Sept. 11.

Field of Poppies, a solo exhibit by Pardo de Leon composed of six oil on canvas paintings at Finale Art Gallery, the Artwalk, 4/L, SM Megamall A until Sept. 13.

Pardo de Leon's solo exhibit, "Field of Poppies," ongoing at Finale Art Gallery

Music

The Magic of Music continues as the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra holds it 2005-2006 concert season under the baton of Maestro Eugene Castillo. **Romantic Beginnings** opens on Sept. 9 with renowned tenor William George as soloist. The program also includes Alfredo Buenaventura's "Bathaluman," Leighton's Symphony No. 3 "Laudes Musicae" and Brahm's "Symphony No. 1 in C minor. Op. 68." It will be staged at the CCP Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo at 8 p.m. For inquiries, call the CCP Box Office (832-3704), Ticketworld at National Bookstore and Tower Records (891-9999).

The MCO Foundation presents the second concert of the annual **MCO Arts Festival** featuring soprano Rachelle Gerodias with collaborating pianist Najib Ismail on Sept. 10, 6 p.m. at Equitable PCIBank's Francisco Santiago Hall, Makati Avenue, Makati City. Gerodias will give honors to the sopranos who have greatly inspired her singing among them, Maestra Iniguez, Arlene Aguilar, Mirella Freni and Victoria Delos Angeles. Concert repertoire will include arias by Handel and Puccini, and songs by Quitler and Antonio Molina. For ticket reservations, call 840-7000 local 2630.

Onstage

Get your dose of comedy and melodrama at the Douglas Nierras Powerdance 2005 concert, **Why Dance, Powerdance... Why Not, Coconut?!** The playdates are on Sept. 9, 10 and 16 at 8 p.m. with a matinee at 3 p.m. on Sept. 10 at the AFP Theater, Camp Aguinaldo. Nierras' choreographies will make you laugh and cry in a matter of minutes, tug at your heartstrings and tickle your funny bone. For details, call 995-8287. Ticket prices at P1,000, P800 and P500 with 50 percent discount for students.

Koiné One Acts Theater (2/F, Forab Building, 121 Kamuning Road, QC) presents Jihan Estrella's ***SAWI: Single Ako Warning Ito*** on Sept. 9, 10, 16, 17, 30, Oct. 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29 at 7:30 p.m. The play is a hilarious comedy about how annoying the question "*May* boyfriend *ka na ba*?" can get. "SAWI" runs in tandem with Niel de Mesa's provocative play, **Starring Miss Lea Salonda**, a trying hard british comedy about the Philippine local scene. Reserved seating only. For reservations, call 410-4485 or 0916-5251038.

Cinema

Schedule of **screenings at the UP Film Institute**: Sept. 5, 5 p.m.—"Hitch"; Sept 6, 5 p.m.—"Kung Fu Hustle"; Sept 8, 5 p.m.—"Head in the Clouds"; Sept. 9, 2 and 5 p.m. respectively—the twin accounts of the Rwanda genocide, "Shake Hands with the Devil: The Journey of Romeo Dallaire" and "Hotel Rwanda." For inquiries, call 981-8500 local 2669 and 2670 or telefax 920-6863.

Food

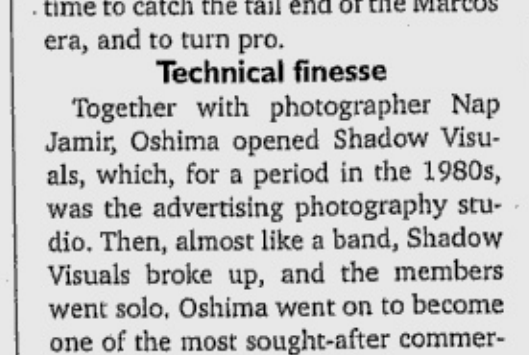
Italianni's offers a taste of la dolce vita, great Italian-American food and a touch of "Little Italy" with the opening of its biggest branch at the ground floor of SM Megamall Building A. The newest Italianni's branch will take guests to a culinary journey which starts with a Gelato Corner by the entrance. Wafting from the Panaterria Corner is the delicious smell of freshly baked breads. There is also a Coffee Corner for real Italian espresso. The variety and flavors of Italian-American cuisine are apparent on the menu with a selection of appetizers, salads, pasta, pizza and desserts.

Café Adriatico serves its own special version of chocolate drink, **Chocolate Eh!**, a throwback to days gone by when people sipped instead of munch their chocolate. As a special dessert treat, try Chocolate Eh! Fondue, a Filipino-Spanish offering that pairs mango and suman slices with velvety smooth Chocolate Eh! for your dipping pleasure. Gift packs of Chocolate Eh! are also available to let you bring this comfort food right to your doorstep. For details, call Café Adriatico in Malate at 523-2509, Westgate (771-1281), Eastwood (421-9647) and Gateway (913-8103). Chocolate Eh! is also available at Café Havana Greenbelt, Ang Hang and Bistro Remedios.

Dusit Hotel Nikko takes you to a culinary journey this month as it highlights the hotel's **renowned Asian gastronomy**. Benjarong Royal Thai Restaurant will satisfy your craving authentic Thai cuisine. Fiesta San Miguel adds new choices in its a la carte menu as inspired by the lemongrass herb. Diners can go for the *Binagoongang Baboy na may Tanglad at Gabi* or the *Ginataang Sugpo at Tahong* or choose the skewered food items (*Sari-Saring Parilla*). The Café goes European as it offers Italian buffet dishes prepared on the spot through the Pasta Show Cooking station. It's Matsutake Delight at Benkay Japanese Restaurant as it features the king of all edible mushrooms from Sept. 6-20 in various a la carte preparation. For details, call 867-3333.

Atbp

Macau Week is currently ongoing at the Edsa Shangri-La, Mandaluyong. Experience the sights, sounds and tastes of Macau at the Atrium, Shangri-La Plaza Mall until today from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. It features films on Macau, free sampling of Macanese delicacies such as almond cookies, soy bean curd, the famous Portuguese egg tarts and Portuguese wines. A group of artisans will demonstrate the art of calligraphy, face painting and caricature drawing. A feng shui expert will read one's face and palms, while the 24-member Macau Dance Troupe will perform at regular intervals. Three chefs from Macau's famed Institute for Tourism Studies will participate in the Macau Food Festival until Sept. 8 at the Lobby Lounge of Edsa Shangri-La. For travel inquiries, call Macau Government Tourist Office at 812-2595 or 813-0947.



St. Paul's Ruins in Macau. Celebrate Macanese cuisine at the Edsa Shangri-La

Birth Certificate

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde's School of Professional and Continuing Education invites professionals to enroll in its September modules. The modules can be taken on their own, or as part of a program leading to a post-baccalaureate diploma. Starting on Sept. 10 are Technical Processes and Systems in Organization Development, HR and Customer Interaction, Building Business Capabilities, Human Resource Planning, Emerging Marketing Trends, Event Administration and Evaluation, Overview of the Real Estate Industry Markets and Practice, Inventory and Warehouse Management, Market Research and Media Planning, Curriculum Design and Development, and The Tools to Increase Store Productivity. Workshops in painting and a short course in Credit and Collection Management are also being offered. Classes are held every Saturday at 12:30-7:30 p.m. at the Angelo King International Center along Estrada St., Manila. Call 400-5425 or 523-8888 loc. 341-342.

Sari-Saring Parilla is among the new choices at the Dusit Hotel's Fiesta San Miguel restaurant

Interested parties are invited to attend the **Nurturing Creativity: The First Phil. Creative Industry Forum** slated on Sept. 7-9 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. The forum aims to define the growth and cultural contribution of creative industries, as well as their relation to art, education and social inclusion. The conference will bring together various groups of people working in creative industries to share their experiences and dialogues with senior policy makers, politicians, civil servants, and those working in enterprise initiatives. Registration fee is P2,000 (Metro Manila participants), P1,500 (groups) and P1,000 (regional participants). Fee is inclusive of food for three days and a forum kit. For details, call 833-0267 / 832-3674.

Corban Learning Center is slating a new series of **Easy English seminars** every Saturday and/or Sunday, starting Sept. 10 and 11 from 2 to 5 p.m., for students, housewives and professionals. This is a comprehensive package of conversation, grammar, pronunciation and writing that runs for 30 hours. For inquiries, call Corban at 842-6665 and 809-3050.

John L. Silva will once again hold his **Advocacy Writing Workshop** on Sept. 10 at the National Museum from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The workshop has the added dimension of teaching participants how to write with the endpoint of garnering public opinion, securing financial support, and most importantly, winning a cause they hold dearly. Fee is P3,500 inclusive of a workbook, lunch and a tour of the National Museum. Call or text 0926-7299029 and 527-5082.

Art Informal will open a six-session intermediate level sculpture workshop this month. Sculptor and visual artist Salvador "Joel" Alonday will facilitate the **Sculpture Workshop (Portrait Bust)** from Sept. 10 to Oct. 15, Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It will cover the basics of portraiture drawing, modeling, casting and an exploration of various materials which can be used for sculpture. Art Informal is located at 277 Connecticut St., Greenhills East, Mandaluyong City. For inquiries, call 725-8518.

The Big Binondo Food Bowl. Join guide Ivan ManDy as he horses around and takes visitors to discover the culinary and historical delights of Manila's Chinatown on Sept. 10. Meet inside the Binondo Church at 1 p.m. Slots limited. Check out www.oldmanilawalks.com, text 0917-3291622 or email oldmanilawalks@gmail.com for details.

The Alcove Photo Gallery will hold an advanced lighting workshop, **Tabletop Studio: Mastering Light for Product Photography**, to be conducted

Powerdance explores humor and drama in "Why Dance, Powerdance.. Why Not, Coconut?" at the AFP Theater

by Jay Alonzo on Sept. 10 and 17 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati Avenue, Ayala Triangle, Makati City (across the Peninsula Manila). To be covered in detail are the techniques in photographing and illuminating packaged products for catalog, brochure, poster, publicity kit, manual, print, billboard and online ads. Workshop fee is P3,500. For details, call 892-1801.

X-manila

Dreamwork & Our Life Journey Seminar. Spend a weekend of learning how to read and interpret your own dreams and even those of others through the understanding of symbols and archetypes with the country's foremost dream counselor, Lucito de Jesus. To be held at the Forest Club in Bay, Laguna on Sept. 9-11. Interested participants may call Wawel Mercado at 0917-8312583, 638-1741 or e-mail wawel_mercado@hotmail.com.

The Barasoain Kalinangan Foundation, Inc. will perform its original *sarswela* production, *Los Malóleñas*, on Sept. 8-15, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Nicanor Abelardo Auditorium, Provincial Capitol Complex in Malolos, Bulacan. "*Los Malóleñas*" tells the story of 20 women of Malolos who struggled to liberate themselves from the political and cultural strictures imposed by the Spanish overlord, the American invader, and the Filipino patriarch. It highlights their involvement in the movement for reform in Malolos in the 1880s, their contribution to the revolutionaries of the town in 1896, their active support of the first Cruz Roja in 1899, and their membership in the first women's organization, the Asociacion Feminista Filipina, in 1906. For sponsorships, bookings and ticket reservations, contact Sonny Cristobal at 0927-3889216, 044-6625610, 044-7910487 and 02-8330267.

Seeing ...from page 8

ture the effortless flow of his first efforts. This phenomenon is well-known to students of Zen: uncluttered by book-learning, the "beginner's mind" grasps the essence intuitively. Mastery is learning to recapture this state of mind at will. "I didn't experience it for a long time," he says. "Then I came here, and I started experiencing it again."

Oshima senior had taken up a teaching position at the University of the Philippines School of Economics, and once again the family moved, this time to Diliman. Again, the timing was propitious: Marcos had just declared martial law, but in spite of the repressive atmosphere (or perhaps partly because of it), the local counterculture began channeling its energies into a deeper exploration of indigenous Philippine culture.

Oshima fell in with a circle that included painter Bencab, filmmaker Butch Perez and artist Boldy Tapales during the mid-'70s flowering of bohemian Ermita, and began taking photographs in earnest. Alejandro Roces was then compiling his epic "Philippine Heritage" encyclopedia, and Oshima was one of the photographers given assignments.

"He would give us 200 pesos and say, 'Go to Palawan, find the Tagbanua and take pictures,'" recalls Oshima. "I got to see a lot of the country and sort of learned to take photographs that way."

Oshima went back to the University of Hawaii to finish his undergraduate degree in photography and anthropology, and took a master's degree in photography from the San Francisco State University. He was back in Manila in time to catch the tail end of the Marcos era, and to turn pro.

Technical finesse

Together with photographer Nap Jamir, Oshima opened Shadow Visuals, which, for a period in the 1980s, was the advertising photography studio. Then, almost like a band, Shadow Visuals broke up, and the members went solo. Oshima went on to become one of the most sought-after commercial photographers in Manila, recognized for his technical finesse and exacting standards. But his heart remains in "pure" photography. "I've always done the commercial work to fund other things," he says.

For the last couple of years, Oshima has scaled back his commercial work to focus on his more personal projects, most of which focus on Philippine culture. He is currently working on a book on piña cloth and another on architecture.

For the past two years, he and his wife have also been operating Lumiere, a café-photography gallery in Makati, which is one of the few places in Manila where photographers can exhibit and sell their work.

But Oshima still lives for those moments when he can lose himself in the flow of pure seeing: "The attraction for me is just being there, when the light is hitting the rice terraces just right, and people are walking down and everything comes together, and you take the picture with your camera and everything's there. And then it's gone: the light changes and the people move on, and you go, 'What was that all about?' But if you're good, you process the film and the photograph has something of that feeling."

by Eric S. Caruncho

Just Being There to See His Adopted Land

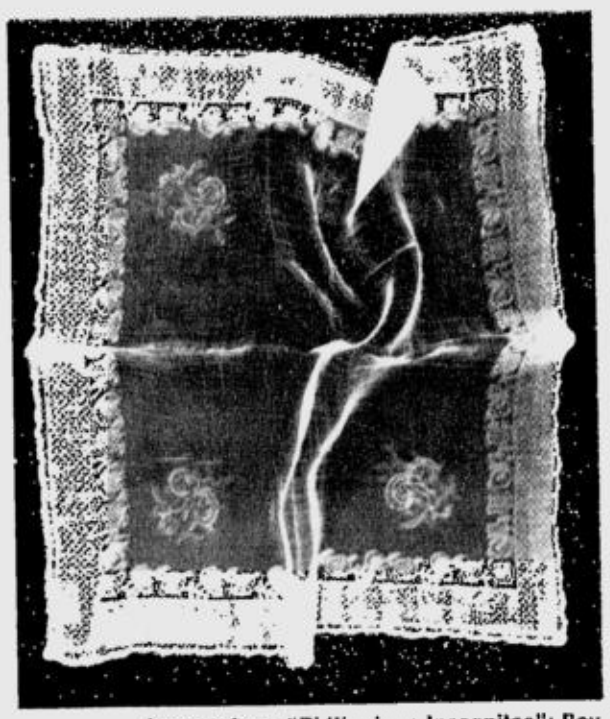
Commercial success notwithstanding, Neal Oshima's heart has always been in 'pure' photography. His new book on the Philippines reveals extraordinary glimpses of the country through this veteran lensman's eyes

IT has photographs of wildlife, breathtaking scenery and smiling faces, and was produced with the help of the Department of Tourism for the 2005 World Expo now being held in Aichi, Japan.

But "Philippinas Incognitas," Neal Oshima's latest book of travel photographs, is not your usual Philippine tourism coffee table book. Rather, as its title suggests, it is an exploration of the unknown Philippines—unknown because overlooked.

"These are the kind of images that Filipinos see just before they die," Susan Roxas, Oshima's wife, quotes an overseas Filipino as saying. Oshima says he made a conscious effort to avoid the usual tourism clichés. For one thing, most of the photographs are in luminous black-and-white, rather than tourist-brochure color. For another, Oshima's lens focuses equally on the seemingly ordinary as much as the overtly exotic. Deeply encoded in these quotidian images is the essence of Filipino culture, for those with eyes to see. Through his photographs, Oshima invites us to take a closer look, sometimes literally, as when he moves in with a macro lens to inspect the sensuous surface details most of us take for granted.

With wife Susan Roxas: "Some photographers can conjure up images in front of them. It's a kind of prestidigitation"



Images from "Philippinas Incognitas": Boy on a hammock (top), forest triptych (center), photogram of a handkerchief (bottom)

In a way, Oshima is the ideal photographer to capture "Philippinas Incognitas." Technically, he is *sansei*, a third-generation Japanese-American, but he has made the Philippines his home for the better part of the last 30 years, and as a travel photographer has seen more of this country than most natives. This gives him both an insider's deep background on Philippine esoterica, such as the distinctive patterns of *t'nalak* cloth from Lake Sebu or the nocturnal habits of the Bohol tarsier or the rhythms and rituals of the Batangueño *subli*, as well as the fresh eyes of an outsider looking in.

More perspective

"Maybe I have a little more perspective than someone who grew up here," says Oshima. "I can look at something and say, 'That's really interesting,' while other people just go by them."

Both Oshima's parents were *nisei*, second-generation Japanese-Americans born in the US to immigrant parents. His father Harry T. Oshima, a professor of economics, was born in Hawaii. His mother Chiiye, a poet and journalist, was born in Oregon.

"They lived in New York in the period between the wars, and were both into the avant garde scene," says Oshima. "My mother knew Carlos Bulosan when she was a kid in LA; he was one of those 'bad' Filipinos she wasn't supposed to play with. She told me about seeing (painter Willem) de Kooning walking around in New York. She says she introduced me to Billie Holiday when I was a baby, and that (writer and illustrator) Maurice Sendak was my babysitter a couple of times."

The Oshimas lived the life of itinerant academics, going where grants and teaching positions took them. Neal was born and spent his first few years in New York City, while his father was teaching at Columbia University.

"I was a university brat," he recalls.

Subsequent teaching posts took the family to California, Washington, Japan, Singapore and Hawaii.

During a three-year period in the early '60s, while his father was on a Ford Foundation grant, Oshima lived in Japan where his mother would drag him to museums, kabuki and noh performances, and the workshops of Japan's "living national treasures" who practiced age-old arts and crafts such as ceramics. The young Oshima, however, was more interested in manga. But even then, Oshima was already aware that he was "definitely hybrid," neither completely Asian nor completely Western. His Nippongo has largely fallen into disuse.

As it happened, Oshima's coming of age in Honolulu coincided with the Vietnam War and the emerging counterculture of the late '60s.

"I saw Jimi Hendrix four times," he recalls. "I tried to have 'Purple Haze' as my prom theme. I also saw Led Zeppelin on their first US tour."

It was also in Honolulu that Oshima discovered surfing which, strangely enough, led him to his ultimate passion: photography. Hawaii is of course a Mecca for hardcore surfers, and it was on a surfboard, riding the big waves, that Oshima discovered that mystic, Zen-like state that surfers call "tapping the Source."

Ego-less state

"I discovered that I could get into the same flow, the same non-verbal, non-analytical, almost ego-less state of consciousness that I experienced while surfing when I was taking photographs," he recalls. "That was when I thought that maybe photography was for me."

Oshima took a short course in photography taught by a National Geographic photographer, then he got more serious, enrolling in a photography course at the University of Hawaii.

Ironically, the deeper he got into photography, the more mundane the experience of taking pictures became, and the harder it became to recap-

To page 7

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Jules says Assunta leaving ABS-CBN out of disgust

■ NEWS / A2

Somali rebels holding 12 Filipino fishermen hostage

■ BUSINESS / B1

PLDT-Globe price war shifts to overseas call rates

■ WORLD / A7

Rightist US Chief Justice Rehnquist dies

Mikey back from US for brother's birthday

By Nikko Dizon

AFTER NEARLY TWO months of voluntary exile in the United States, President Macapagal-Arroyo's son, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo,

MIKEY/ A22

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Gov't covered up escape of Garcillano, says solon

By Philip C. Tubeza and Nikko Dizon

ALLEGING A MASSIVE GOVERNMENT cover-up, a ranking lawmaker yesterday demanded the sacking of the heads of two state agencies and the stripping of the license of an air charter company for their alleged role in spiriting Virgilio Garcillano out

GOV'T/ A22

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Monday, September 5, 2005 ★★ 80 pages / 8 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 269 P18

GMA confident she won't be impeached

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo gets an update on the devastation wrought by Hurricane "Katrina" in a phone-patched conversation with Ambassador Alberto del Rosario in Washington. OPS PHOTO

Pimentel warns of protests

By Christine O. Avendaño and TJ Burgonio

SOUNDING UPBEAT on the eve of a crucial vote on the impeachment complaint against her, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday urged Filipinos to stay the course with her in the bigger battle ahead against poverty.

Even Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. predicted Ms Arroyo would avoid being unseated. "I think she's crossing the Rubicon with the decision of hers and her allies to kill the impeachment complaint."

Pimentel warned that the outright dismissal of the complaint against Ms Arroyo would trigger a rerun of the bloodless people's revolts that ousted Presidents Ferdinand Marcos in February 1986 and Joseph Estrada in January 2001.

In an eight-paragraph statement, the President said that while her opponents were praying for her downfall, she was humbly seeking "divine guidance to do what is best for our people." She said the road ahead would be "difficult and challenging."

"To our people, I ask that they stay the course with me as we continue to take the brave path toward meaningful reforms to help us obtain freedom from debt and grinding poverty," Ms Arroyo said.

In a setback for the opposition, the House committee on justice packed with the President's allies rejected on Wednesday the impeachment complaints against her

GMA/ A20

REFLECTING on her future, a woman sits in floodwater in the aftermath of Hurricane "Katrina" in New Orleans, Louisiana. Thousands of residents streamed north on Saturday to escape the violence that has gripped the city days after the devastation. REUTERS

Fil-Ams open homes to Fil-Am victims

By Christine O. Avendaño

IT WAS LIKE BEING BACK HOME.

While there were no Filipino-Americans who died when Hurricane "Katrina" struck the US Gulf Coast last week, floods forced them to flee to evacuation centers—a typical occurrence in typhoon-prone Philippines.

In a televised discussion over government-run NBN 4, President Macapagal-Arroyo was informed by Philippine Ambassador to the United States Albert del Rosario that based on embassy reports, there were no Filipino casualties in the hurricane-battered states of Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, who joined the President on the TV program, said 30 Filipino teachers who recently arrived in New Orleans were "safe and sound" in evacuation centers.

Romulo said Filipino diplomats in the United States put up a disaster center in Houston, Texas, as well as evacuation centers in Dallas and San Antonio, both also in Texas.

Philippine Consul General Marciano Paynor, who is with the Los Angeles consulate, told Ms Arroyo that Fil-Ams based in Houston had opened their homes to other Fil-Ams who had fled flood-devastated Louisiana.

"They're taking in relatives and friends of friends," Paynor told the President in an

FIL-AMS/ A6

Only dead, dying left in New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS—AS THE LAST WEARY evacuees left New Orleans late Saturday, the shattered city began dealing with its dead, confronting a gruesome landscape of scattered corpses that were expected to number in the thousands.

No one knows how many people were killed by Hurricane Katrina and how many more succumbed waiting to be rescued. But the bodies are everywhere: hidden in attics, floating in the ruined city, crumpled in wheelchairs, abandoned on highways.

Echoing the mayor's prediction, Gov. Kathleen Blanco said she expected the death toll to reach the thousands. And Craig Vanderwagen, rear admiral of the US Public Health Service, said one morgue alone—at a St. Gabriel prison—expected 1,000 to 2,000 bodies.

The last evacuees at the Superdome and the convention center climbed aboard buses on Saturday bound for shelters, but the dying continued.

ONLY DEAD/ A6

₱45-M pork offered to undecided solons, says Nene

By TJ Burgonio and Philip C. Tubeza

SENATE MINORITY LEADER AQUILINO Pimentel Jr. yesterday said President Macapagal-Arroyo had dangled a P45-million "pork barrel" bonanza before undecided congressmen, plus juicy government posts for their relatives, in a bid to crush a last-ditch opposition effort to unseat her.

The President's offer had proven too irresistible to at least three congressmen, Pimentel said.

He spoke to the INQUIRER before Monday's anticipated vote in the House plenary on the report by the committee on justice recommending dismissal of an impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo for alleged fraud, bribery, and graft and corruption.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye denied opposition claims that Malacañang was offering money to lawmakers and resorting to threats of political retribution to ensure a House vote against Ms Arroyo.

"These allegations are coming from friends on the other side who seem to have a weak case," Bunye told RMN radio in Filipino.

Because the opposition could not obtain the 79 votes needed to send Ms Arroyo to trial in the Senate, Bunye said the opposition was making these charges so it could use them as an "excuse" in case it lost the House plenary vote.

P45-M/ A20

President's foes engaging in trial by publicity

ANALYSIS

By Amando Doronila

THE JUNKING LAST WEEK BY the House committee on justice of the three impeachment complaints against President Macapagal-Arroyo has led to the opening of two fronts on which the battle over her removal from office is fiercely being fought.

The first is the impeachment process in which the plenary of the House of Representatives is expected to decide this week the crucial issue of whether it should overturn the committee's decision and write its own consolidated version (articles of impeachment) of the three complaints and endorse it to the Senate for trial.

Whether this will happen depends on the success of the drive by proimpeachment forces to obtain the 79 signatures needed to send a complaint to the Senate.

While the process struggles to survive in the impeachment arena, given the superior numbers of proadministration legislators in the House, antiregime militants have intensified their efforts to swing public opinion to influence the result of the critical vote in the House this week.

The militants from civil society have stepped up their campaign to unveil derogatory information on alleged wrongdoing by Ms Arroyo even before the impeachment process has a chance to receive evidence on charges laid against her in the three complaints trashed by the justice committee.

This trial by publicity tends to

PRESIDENT'S/ A22

HI-TECH BIKE SHOW
Visitors admire a customized motorcycle, complete with video and audio systems, at a bike show in Manila. More and more Filipinos are turning to motorcycles as oil prices continue to rise. AP

Pagcor funds went to poor, says Vidal

By Jolene R. Bulambot, Carla P. Gomez and Leila B. Salaverria

CEBU ARCHBISHOP RICARDO CARDINAL Vidal said he was ready to take the heat for taking funds from the state-owned Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor).

"Everything was given to the poor. I am ready to be criticized and blamed. This happened before we decided not to accept donations (from Pagcor) anymore," Vidal told reporters yesterday in Cebu City.

The bishop did not give details as to when the archdiocese started receiving the donations from Pagcor but he said these were stopped last year, when the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines

PAGCOR/ A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon and Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY ERIKA A. SARMIENTO, PDI RESEARCH/09/05/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

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Second FRONTPAGE

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Somali rebels holding 12 Pinoys hostage

By Leila B. Salaverria

SOMALI soldiers are preparing to attack rebels holding Filipino, Taiwanese and other Asian fishermen in the African nation after they threatened to kill one hostage each day if ransom was not paid, a Taiwan newspaper reported yesterday.

Gunmen in the harbor of Kismayo in Somalia have been holding 48 fishermen and their three fishing vessels since Aug. 15 and have demanded $500,000 for each of the boats and their crews, Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

Only two of the 12 Filipino seafarers on board the boats were properly documented, according to Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas.

Sto. Tomas identified the two seafarers as Ramon de los Santos, who was deployed in 1999, and Juner Diacan, who was deployed in 2000. Both were deployed by the High Eagle International Seafarer Agency Inc.

Sto. Tomas identified the 10 other seafarers as Jimmy Gomez, Efren Nava, Melchor Mandanas, Amado Espina, Agustin Ybanes, Janit Ranido, Eduardo Monleon, Primo Galania, Rodel Tagawalo and Erwin Alminana.

She said the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration did not have data on them.

"(It is) highly possible they left without POEA-approved contracts and joined ports where a visa is not required like Singapore and Hong Kong," Sto. Tomas said in a text message.

Taiwan had asked for international help in contacting the gunmen, and talked to the hostage-takers last week in an effort to negotiate for a lower ransom.

The Liberty Times quoted unidentified negotiators as saying Somali soldiers had been deployed near Kismayo to prepare for an attack on the captors. United Nations troops were sent in as back-up, the newspaper said.

But the hostage-takers—reported to be anti-government rebels—were moving rockets, machine guns and other weapons aboard the fishing vessels to prepare for an attack, it said. More than 20 guntoting captors were standing guard over the hostages, it added.

"The situation has been grim as the rebels are planning to use the crew as human shields," the newspaper reported.

Foreign ministry spokesperson Michel Lu declined comment on the report, but said some progress had been made in negotiating with the hostage-takers.

"We're also watching out for any unexpected situations," Lu said.

The Somali gunmen threatened on Friday to start killing one hostage a day if the ransom was not paid within 48 hours, but so far the crew members have not been harmed, the ministry said.

The hostages include three Taiwanese captains and 33 other crew members from Indonesia, China and Vietnam.

Piracy along the Somalian coast is common. Several ships a month are attacked or hijacked, with valuables stolen and crews held for ransom. A ship carrying international food aid has been held by gunmen since late June. *With AP*

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Gov't must act to stop bigger crisis, say eng'rs

By Bobby Q. Labalan
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

SORSOGON CITY—A group of electrical engineers yesterday warned that the present energy crisis being experienced in the country could worsen if government officials did not act now.

In a statement, the Integrated Institute of Electrical Engineers (IIEE) an association of electrical engineers, urged the Department of Energy to look into the power supply requirements of the country for the next three to four years.

At present, the IIEE noted, no investor has gone into power generation, saying this was a grim scenario for the country.

It warned that if the government didn't act now it would be too costly to put up power generation facilities by the time the present power surplus started to run out.

At present, the country has a 2,000-megawatt power surplus.

But IIEE warned that this would decline to 1,500 MW by next year and further slide to 500 MW or less by 2007. By 2008, there would be a deficit of 500 MW and by 2010, the deficit would hit 2,000 MW, the association said.

IIEE officials led by former Energy Secretary Francisco Viray have launched an advocacy campaign to help the government look for possible solutions to the problem.

Some 100 electrical engineers met at Casablanca Hotel in Legazpi City sometime in August where they launched the campaign in the Bicol region, according to engineer Dennis Delgado, IIEE regional governor.

Among IIEE's proposals included the operation of mothballed power facilities, building of new power generation capacities, imposition of appropriate tariff rates and implementation of effective energy management.

IIEE also urged the various power utilities to ensure more efficient operations to minimize systems losses while the public must avoid the wasteful use of electricity.

It said the government had barely enough time to start looking for solutions as this takes time and it requires a huge investment to put up power facilities.

It takes an average of 3 to 5 years to complete a power facility, it added.

The IIEE said the country might experience a much worse scenario than it suffered in the latter part of the 1980s and the early part of the 1990s.

Gunmen wound Surigao newsman

BISLIG CITY, Surigao del Sur—Three gunmen fired several shots at a radio commentator here Saturday night, hitting him in the buttocks and right foot.

Radyo Natin commentator Boy Segovia, 46, was walking home after taking part in a bowling tournament in Barangay Mangagoy when the three men, who were on a motorcycle, fired three shots at him.

The first shot missed but the second and third shots hit their target, but not fatally.

Segovia was brought to the Andres Soriano Hospital by Edmund Estrella, owner of Estrella Bowling Lanes.

Segovia has caught the ire of many public officials, including former Bislig Mayor Florencio Garay, whom he had charged before the Ombudsman-Mindanao with graft and corruption.

He has also been critical of the administration of Mayor Alberto Tan and has been assailing Picop Resources Industries, a logging and paper company here, for its alleged anti-labor policies.

Gov. Vicente Pimentel Jr. has offered P20,000 for any information that would lead to the arrest of the suspects.

Pimentel also ordered the deployment of guards at the hospital to prevent a second attempt on Segovia's life.

The incident happened two months after radio commentator Rolando "Dodong" Morales of dxMD Radio Mindanao Network's Radyo Agong, was gunned down in Polomolok, South Cotabato.

Morales was the sixth journalist killed this year and the 69th since the restoration of democracy in the country in 1986.

Bert Pacate, PDI Mindanao Bureau

GMA 'hostage' of Manila Hotel, Piatco deal, says taipans' lawyer

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINE International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco), now controlled by Emilio Yap's Manila Hotel Corp., is holding President Macapagal-Arroyo hostage, a lawyer for Asia's Emerging Dragons Corp. said yesterday.

Former Securities and Exchange Commissioner Perfecto Yasay, now a lawyer for AEDC, said Piatco and its new owner Manila Hotel were blackmailing the President so the government would allow them to operate the mothballed Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3.

He said the entry of Manila Hotel into Piatco was linked to the ongoing impeachment case against the President.

"Piatco (had) threatened to execute an affidavit saying the family of President Arroyo and officials of her government had received money from Fraport if (Manila Hotel) does not get the government to allow it to operate the airport facility," said Yasay in a statement.

Ms Arroyo is being made a hostage, according to Yasay, and the ransom is in the form of an amicable settlement by granting Piatco the right to operate Naia 3.

Yasay said Manila Hotel had no money to execute the $200-million purchase of Fraport's stake in Piatco.

Manila Hotel bought Fraport's 61 percent stake in Piatco for $200 million and the combined 20 percent stake of Sojitz Corp. and SB Airport Investment Corp. for $30 million.

'Outright zarzuela'

But Yasay said the buyout deal was a "circus if not an outright zarzuela" since no payment had been made to Fraport. He suspected that the payment would be made once Piatco regained the contract to operate Naia 3.

"The Chengs of Piatco will stop at nothing to get a reversal of the Supreme Court decision nullifying the contract. They lost the legal battle so they are now trying to use political maneuvers to regain their lost right capitalizing on alleged impeachment aces under their sleeves at the expense of the presidency," said Yasay.

The AEDC is now asserting its right to operate Naia 3.

Put up by the country's six prominent taipans during the Aquino administration, AEDC made an unsolicited offer to build and operate Naia 3 but its plan was snagged after it failed to match the offer of the Piatco consortium.

In 2002, however, the Supreme Court nullified the government's deal with Piatco. And in December 2004, the Arroyo administration took over the mothballed airport facility, hoping to operate it in June and now, in December.

Friends again?

Taipan Lucio Tan now controls AEDC as the five other taipans had given up on the project. Tan and Yap had not been on good terms for a long time although lately, anecdotal evidence suggested they had patched things up.

"The reported Fraport-Manila Hotel Corp. buyout deal was a mere show hitchhiking on the impeachment against President Arroyo," said AEDC's lawyer.

Piatco's legal counsel Liwayway Vinzons-Chato is also the lawyer of Michaelangelo Zuce, a former Malacañang operative, who told a Senate hearing that he witnessed former Lubao Mayor Lilia Pineda of Pampanga distribute money to election officials during a dinner in Ms Arroyo's residence in La Vista, Quezon City, in the presence of the President.

While not directly connected to Piatco, another proimpeachment lawyer, Frank Chavez, had been working with Chato, according to Yasay.

'Jueteng' witnesses

Chavez, a former solicitor general, is the counsel of Sandra Cam, a witness who testified that she delivered "jueteng" money to Pampanga Rep. Mikey Arroyo and his uncle, Negros Rep. Ignacio Arroyo.

According to Yasay, the testimony of the two witnesses could spell the difference in the impeachment hearing.

"Chato and Chavez will certainly play a vital role on whether or not their clients will still testify against the President depending on the circumstances revolving around the controversial Piatco and Naia 3," said the former SEC chair.

FR. REUTER

House cites 'a man for others' today

IN OBSERVANCE of the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II and Peace and Freedom Week from Aug. 21 to 28, the House of Representatives will honor at 2:30 p.m. today Fr. James Reuter, S.J. with the Congressional Medal of Achievement.

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., on behalf of the Filipino nation, will formally present the artist-patriot and media icon with the medal "in deep appreciation of his unconditional gift of love and service to the Filipinos in education, history, the arts and communication. Although an American, he lives his life as a Filipino citizen and for the Filipinos, through his exceptional dedication to serve."

The 88-year-old Jesuit was cited for his work in the country as a teacher, writer and director of world class plays, school paper moderator, basketball and debating teams coach, and for sharing ethical principles as retreat master, spiritual counselor, and broadcast and print journalist.

He was also credited with "shaping the hearts, minds and souls of generations of Filipinos with his words and his deeds, molding the vision and values of the nation's leaders and crafting them into men and women for others."

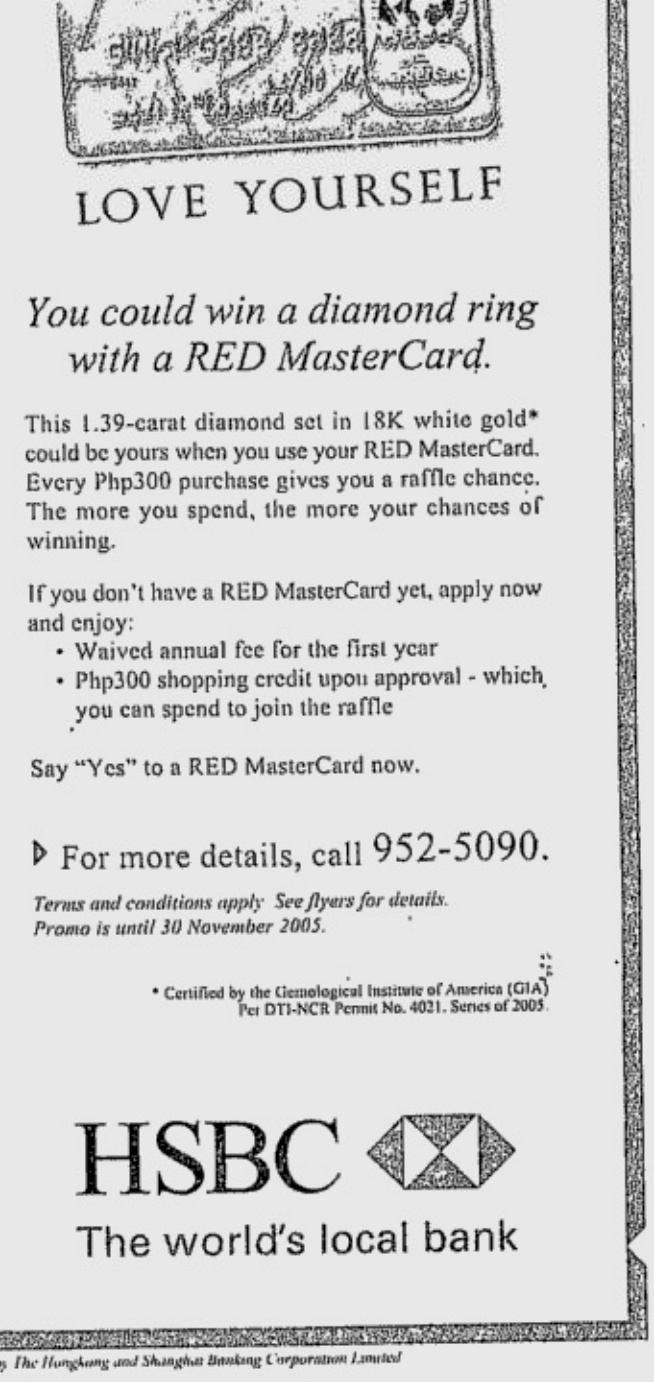
De Venecia said the Congressional Medal was also a special acknowledgment of Fr. Reuter's role as "the single most effective communicator of the Catholic Church in East Asia through the impact of the organizations he founded, particularly in the field of mass media such as the Family Theater and the Federation of Catholic Broadcasters, organizations that are committed to effecting social change through television and radio."

During World War II, Fr. Reuter was one of the few Catholic missionaries who remained in the Philippines. He endured incarceration and starvation at a prison camp in Los Baños, Laguna. There, he found his calling as a source of strength and inspiration for others through his songs and prayers.

At the height of martial law, he opposed the Marcos dictatorship and stood firm to defend press freedom, human rights and democracy. During the 1986 Edsa People Power revolution, he moved behind the scenes to keep the Radyo Bandido radio station on the air.

At the awarding ceremony, De Venecia will bestow the medal on Reuter, assisted by House Deputy Majority Leader Rep. Arthur Defensor.

"A Prayer," a poem written in prison by the late Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. will be delivered by Komisyon ng Wikang Filipino chair Nita Buenaobra, who will also receive an NCCA citation for her leadership in promoting the National Language from National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) chair Ambeth Ocampo and Executive Director Cecile Guidote Alvarez.



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PNP: No 'shotgun' ops vs Muslims

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE POLICE assured Muslims yesterday no "shotgun-type" operations would be conducted in their communities amid government warnings that Muslim extremists might launch terror attacks in Metro Manila.

"When there are operations, they would be specific operations aimed at specific individuals—not whole communities," Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, Philippine National Police spokesperson, said.

Dubious practice

"And these operations are going to be backed by solid intelligence," Bataoil added. "We do not do zoning."

Zoning, reminiscent of the martial law era, is the police method of swamping with its armed personnel communities notorious for harboring criminal elements and rounding up all able-bodied men. In the instances the police had been reported to engage in this dubious practice in the past, especially after the Rizal Day bombings, most of those caught in the dragnet were later released for lack of evidence.

Last week, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said a group of Muslim converts with ties to the Jemaah Islamiyah was the biggest "headache" facing the Philippine capital.

Biggest headache

Gonzales said the Rajah Sulayman Group (RSG), composed of Christians who became Muslims, had ties to the Abu Sayyaf bandit group and the Jemaah Islamiyah, an Indonesia-based regional terror group which has been linked to the al-Qaida international terrorist network.

"They are the biggest headache because they are former Christians. They are from (the main island of) Luzon, from Manila ... so they know their way around Manila," he said.

The group, he added, was receiving funds from the Middle East.

Quoting intelligence officials, Bataoil said some members of the group underwent training under the Jemaah Islamiyah in Central Mindanao.

More radical

An intelligence officer had told the INQUIRER that RSG members were "more radical" than ordinary Muslims because they want to prove they deserve conversion to their new faith.

Immediately after the Feb. 14 bombings in Makati and Mindanao, the police and military announced that at least seven persons with ties to the Abu Sayyaf and the JI were planning more attacks in Metro Manila.

The police said the group was led by Hilarion del Rosario Santos Jr., alias Ahmed Santos, allegedly the leader of RSG. None of them have been caught.

But Bataoil said innocent Muslims need not fear the police. "We're after the RSG. As far as other Muslims, we respect them and support their quest for religiosity," he said.

3 soldiers killed in Abu ambush

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Three soldiers, including a lieutenant, were killed when they were ambushed by suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits in Indanan town, Sulu, yesterday morning.

Brig. Gen. Alexander Aleo, chief of Joint Task Force Comet, said the soldiers were in a private Tamaraw vehicle and were on their way to a mosque in Indanan when they were waylaid.

Army spokesperson Maj. Bartolome Bacarro identified those killed as Lt. Sahiron Gumampang and Privates Hasan Darib and Arnold Audi Baldorad, all with the 53rd Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army. Gumampang was an integree from the Moro National Liberation Front, which signed a peace pact with the government in 1996.

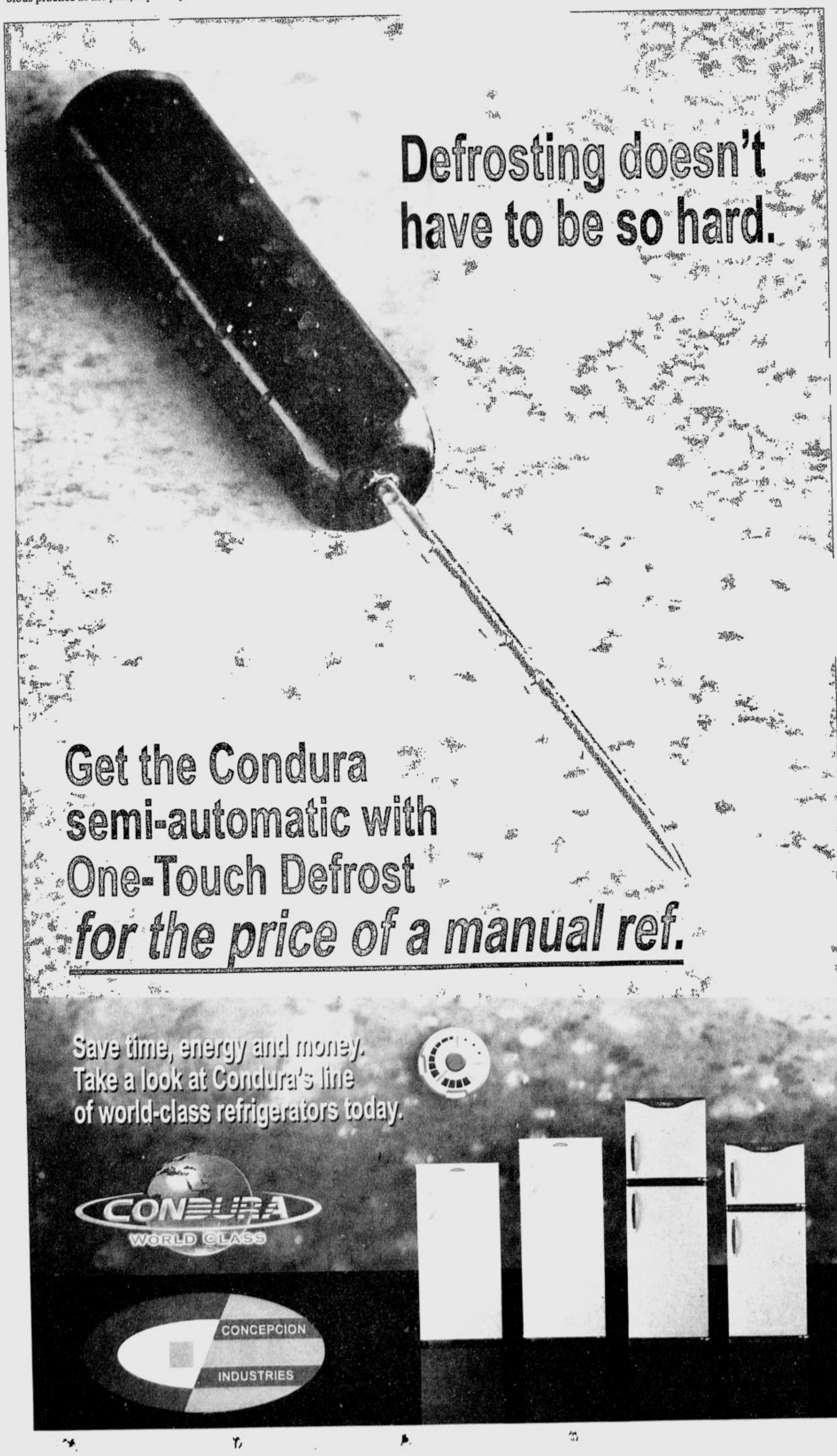
In a text message to the INQUIRER, Bacarro said an undetermined number of Abu Sayyaf bandits opened fire on the soldiers in the Karawan complex in Indanan.

They were in civilian clothes and were unarmed, Bacarro said.

Aleo said the bandits were led by Umbra Jumdail, alias Doctor Abu.

He said the death of the officer, who was related to former Sulu Gov. Yusop Jikiri, could lead to a clan war.

"We don't want this to happen, so I directed the 104th Army Brigade troops to conduct pursuit operations," he said. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and Luige A. del Puerto*



Found skeleton not Indonesian's

COTABATO CITY—The skeletal remains found by the military last month in Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao, were those of a member of the Abu Sayyaf and not of an Indonesian Jemaah Islamiyah leader, the military said yesterday.

Negative result

Brig. Gen. Ben Dolorfino, commanding general of the Philippine Marines 2nd Brigade and the government's Adhoc Joint Action Group (AHJAC) chair, said the skeleton, which government forces unearthed in Barangay Tinungos, were the remains of Ustadz Hamad Idris, an Abu Sayyaf member who was killed in an encounter in July.

"The result of the DNA examination was negative. It was not Omar Patek," Dolorfino told the INQUIRER in a phone interview from Manila.

Foreign terrorists

Patek was one of 32 foreign terrorists reported to be in the country, he said.

"They were included in the list we gave to members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front's AHJAC," he added.

The MILF, which is in peace talks with the government, is helping the military in its campaign against terrorism.

Patek, an Indonesian senior JI leader who joined the group of Abu Sayyaf leader Khadaffy Janjalani along with two other Indonesians, Don Matin and Mawiya, was trained in Afghanistan and managed to get into the country through its "back door."

Still alive

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu earlier claimed that Patek was still alive.

"The Front is working to pinpoint his exact location in Central Mindanao," Kabalu said.

The military had reported that Patek was killed in an operation against Abu Sayyaf bandits in Datu Odin Sinsuat in July. The operation resulted in the death of seven Abu Sayyaf bandits. *Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, September 5, 2005
23rd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Col 1:24-2:3
Gospel: Luke 6:6-11

On a sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and began teaching. There was a man with a paralyzed right hand and the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees watched him: Would Jesus heal the man on the sabbath? If he did, they could accuse him.

But Jesus knew their thoughts and said to the man, "Get up and stand in the middle." Then he spoke to them, "I want to ask you: what is allowed by the Law on the sabbath, to do good or to do harm, to save life or destroy it?" And Jesus looked around at them all.

Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out and his hand was restored, becoming as whole as the other. But they were furious and began to discuss with one another how they could deal with Jesus.

Commentary

Sabbath again and Jesus is intent on preaching by example what is the true worship of God. It is not ritual alone, but it is healing that is broken and sick, filling up what is lacking and make human and whole again. He sees a man with a paralyzed right hand and calls the man out (discipleship) and commands him to raise his hand. He obeys. And Jesus examines them: Is it lawful to do good or to do harm, to save life or destroy it? And, it seems, not to do anything because of a law is to do harm and destroy life! He heals the man by his word, but the teachers and leaders are furious and already they begin to figure out how to get rid of him. He's dangerous, preaching wholeness, inclusion of the sick, the weak, the lost, those without power, previously shunned religiously. He reveals their own shallowness and insensitivity, by acting with such compassion. Who do we look more like today?

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Gov't gets measly 10% share of Mt. Diwalwal gold

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE GOVERNMENT gets only a measly 10 percent of the gold production from Mt. Diwalwal in Compostela Valley because of unregulated competition from small-scale miners, the Natural Resources Development Corp. said.

NRDC president Angelico T. Salud said the government barely earned anything from the gold mined from the gold rush area 600 meters up the mountain.

In 2004, the NRDC remitted only P7.5 million worth of gold from Mt. Diwalwal to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. The NRDC itself receives less than P1 million annually for mining the area, Salud said.

The NRDC employs around 150 of the original small-scale miners on Mt. Diwalwal who turn over the gold they get to the NRDC in exchange for regular wages.

Salud said the 150 miners get a fixed monthly salary like NRDC employees regardless of the volume of gold or minerals they bring to the NRDC.

"We have no problem with our miners, but we get only 10 percent of the potential, maybe because Diwalwal has been mined for a long time and because there are so many people mining the area which is open to small-scale miners," Salud said in an interview.

He said the NRDC's 150 miners were no match for some 4,000 other miners who had staked their claims to the gold rush area long before the government took over mining operations on Mt. Diwalwal.

"They're like squatters. They do whatever they like. They refuse to recognize government authority and we're trying to correct that," Salud.

He said the NRDC was having a tough time handling the small-scale miners not just because they were stubborn but also because they were now too many.

"They're like an underground economy... It's very, very difficult to handle them... because they've been there before the government and they feel like they have a right to Diwalwal," Salud said.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources recently warned small-scale miners who were trying to mine the restricted area, which is below the 600-meter open site, to stay away from the closed site or face arrest.

The DENR has sent letters to officials of the Philippine Army and the Philippine National Police based in Compostela Valley, Davao del Norte, to secure the area from small-scale miners.

6 inmates bolt Laguna prov'l jail

CALAMBA CITY—Six inmates escaped from the Laguna provincial jail in the capital town of Sta. Cruz on Saturday night after tying up the lone guard manning the facility's watchtower.

Senior Supt. Federico Terte, Laguna police director, identified the escapees as Ronald Rivas, Victor Celestial, Dodong Lopez, Orland Gullas, Maphol Magbanua and Louie Famador.

He said three of the fugitives were facing murder charges while the rest had been charged with kidnapping, robbery, homicide and possession of illegal drugs.

Terte said the suspects managed to escape after climbing up the watchtower of the province's main detention center located in Barangay Poblacion Uno at around 6 p.m., tying up jail guard Socrates Herradura and taking his pistol and an M16 rifle.

"Apparently, the guard didn't notice that the inmates had climbed his post. He was overpowered by the suspects," Terte told the INQUIRER in a mobile phone interview.

The detainees then jumped over the security fence after passing through the steel window of the jail tower, he said.

Terte said it was still unclear how the inmates were able to break out of their cells under the noses of the other jail guards on duty at the time.

Supt. Steve Ludan, Sta. Cruz police chief, said it was not known if the fugitives had a getaway vehicle waiting for them.

The back portion of the jail led to a vast rice field, he said.

Ludan said that because of the large number of prisoners at the jail, "there was a different arrangement inside it." He declined to elaborate.

The provincial jail holds about 1,500 inmates under the direct supervision of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology.

The INQUIRER tried to talk to jail officials but a staffer said they would not give an official statement as they were still investigating the incident. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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- Steamed Prawn w/ Soy Sauce
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- Crabmeat Fried Rice
- Mango Sago
- Fruit Platter

SET MENU for 6
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Fil-Ams open homes to Fil-Am victims

From page A1

overseas call aired live over NBN 4.

Many Fil-Ams who were evacuated from New Orleans went to nearby Baton Rouge or fled to Houston, Cielo Martinez, Philippine honorary consul general in New Orleans, said in an overseas call.

She said other Fil-Ams there stayed in their homes, waiting for the floodwaters to ebb which could happen in between two to three months when pumps in New Orleans, now 80 percent under water, were expected to run again.

Martinez told the President that her house was under between seven and 10 feet of water.

Ms Arroyo extended her sympathies and said: "It's not only the Philippines that takes time to recover, the most powerful country, the United States, would take two to three months to recover fully," she said in Filipino.

Disasters don't choose

The President also said events showed that "disasters do not choose rich, poor or developing nations."

"Let us all help each other," Ms Arroyo said, thanking Martinez and the Fil-Ams who had opened up their homes to fellow Fil-Ams, reiterating appeals to Filipinos in the United States to help the flood victims.

Romulo told Ms Arroyo that Filipino diplomats had received $20,000 in donations, half of which had come from Filipino businesswoman Loida Nicolas-Lewis. The other half came from diplomats and personnel of the Philippine Embassy in the United States.

The foreign secretary appealed to donors to make their checks payable to the American Red Cross, which would receive them from the Filipino diplomats.

"[The Philippine posts] are appealing for donations in cash or in kind, in medicine or in blood," Romulo said, adding that the donors' names and their donations would be posted on the embassy website.

Humanitarian team

National Disaster Coordinating Council Executive Director Glen Rabonsa told the President that the country was prepared to send a 25-member humanitarian team to the United States within the week.

"Even if we're not as rich as the US, we have the chance to help and we're doing it," Ms Arroyo said in the televised program. "This is not only about helping alleviate pain and anguish but about two nations sharing the sacrifices for freedom and human dignity over more than a century."

The President noted that the United States had always come to the aid of the Philippines in times of disaster and "we shall always be first [to help] a long-standing ally."

Ms Arroyo asked for a day of prayer for the victims "of this continuing calamity."

Only dead, dying left in New Orleans

From page A1

Touring an airport triage center, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, a physician, said "a lot more than eight to 10 people are dying a day."

Most were those too sick or weak to survive. But not all.

Charles Womack, a 30-year-old roofer, said he saw one man beaten to death and another commit suicide at the Superdome. Womack was beaten with a pipe and treated at the airport center, where bodies were kept in a refrigerated truck.

"One guy jumped off a balcony. I saw him do it. He was talking to a lady about it. He said it reminded him of the war and he couldn't leave," he said.

Three babies died at the convention center from heat exhaustion, said Mark Kyle, a medical relief provider.

Last 300 evacuated

But some progress was evident. The last 300 refugees at the Superdome were evacuated Saturday evening, eliciting cheers from members of the Texas National Guard who had been standing watch over the facility for nearly a week as some 20,000 hurricane survivors waited for rescue.

On Sunday, utilities planned to send trucks into the city to assess storm damage for the first time since Katrina struck. Morgan Stewart, a spokesperson for electricity provider Entergy Corp., said the National Guard would escort the company's vehicles.

The convention center was "almost empty" after 4,200 people were removed, according to Marty Bahamonde, a spokesperson for the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Earlier estimates of the crowd climbed as high as 25,000.

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said the federal government would step up its relief effort for victims of Hurricane Katrina and take a more prominent role in responding to other natural disasters.

Chertoff said the government, which had been widely criticized for its slow reaction to the deadly storm, would continue to pour federal resources into the Gulf states. But, he conceded, the challenge is daunting.

"People all over the Gulf area are in dire straits," he told reporters at a news conference on Saturday.

President George W. Bush ordered more than 7,000 active duty forces to the region and said he planned to return to the area on Monday.

"In America, we do not abandon our fellow citizens in their hour of need," Bush said.

Thousands of refugees dragged their meager belongings to buses, the mood more numb than jubilant. Yolando Sanders, who had been stuck at the convention center for five days, was among those who filed past corpses to reach the buses.

Nearby, a woman lay dead in a wheelchair on the front steps. A man was covered in a black drape with a dry line of blood running to the gutter, where it had pooled. Another had lain on a chaise lounge for four days, his stocking feet peeking out from under a quilt.

By mid-afternoon, only pockets of stragglers remained in the streets around the convention center, and New Orleans paramedics began carting away the dead.

The exact number of dead won't be known for some time. Survivors were still being plucked from roofs and shattered highways across the city.

"There are people in apartments and hotels that you didn't know were there," Army Brig. Gen. Mark Graham said.

The overwhelming majority of those stranded in the post-Katrina chaos were those without the resources to escape—and, overwhelmingly, they were black.

"The first few days were a natural disaster. The last four days were a man-made disaster," said Phillip Holt, 51, who was rescued from his home on Saturday with his partner and three of their aging Chihuahuas. They left a fourth behind they couldn't grab in time.

Tens of thousands of people had been evacuated from the city, seeking safety in Texas, Tennessee and many other states.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry on Satuday warned that his enormous state was running out of room, with more than 220,000 hurricane refugees camped out there and more coming. Emergency workers at the Astrodome were told to expect 10,000 new arrivals daily for the next three days.

Largest airlift

In Washington, Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta announced that more than 10,000 people had been flown out of New Orleans in what he called the largest airlift in history on US soil. He said the flights would continue as long as needed.

Thousands of people remained at Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport, where officials turned an airline terminal into a triage unit. Officials said 3,000 to 5,000 people had been treated at the unit, but fewer than 200 remain. Others throughout the airport awaited transport out of the city.

"In the beginning it was like trying to lasso an octopus. When we got here it was overwhelming," said Jake Jacoby, a physician helping run the center.

Airport director Roy Williams said about 30 people had died, some of them elderly and ill. The bodies were being kept in refrigerated trucks as a temporary morgue.

At the convention center, people stumbled toward the helicopters, dehydrated and nearly passing out from exhaustion. Many had to be carried by National Guard troops and police on stretchers. And some were being pushed up the street on office chairs and on dollies.

Nita LaGarde, 105, was pushed down the street in her wheelchair as her nurse's 5-year-old granddaughter, Tanisha Blevin, held her hand. The pair spent two days in an attic, two days on an interstate island and the last four days on the pavement in front of the convention center.

"They're good to see," LaGarde said, with remarkable gusto as she waited to be loaded onto a gray Marine helicopter. She said they were sent by God. "Whatever he has for you, he'll take care of you. He'll sure take care of you."

LaGarde's nurse, Ernestine Dangerfield, 60, said LaGarde had not had a clean adult diaper for more than two days. "I just want to get somewhere where I can get her nice and clean," she said.

Around the corner, a motley fleet of luxury tour buses and yellow school buses lined up two deep to pick up some of the healthier refugees. National Guardsmen confiscated a gun, knives and letter openers from people before they got on the buses.

Starting a new life

"It's been a long time coming," Derek Dabon, 29, said as he waited to pass through a guard checkpoint. "There's no way I'm coming back. To what? That don't make sense. I'm going to start a new life."

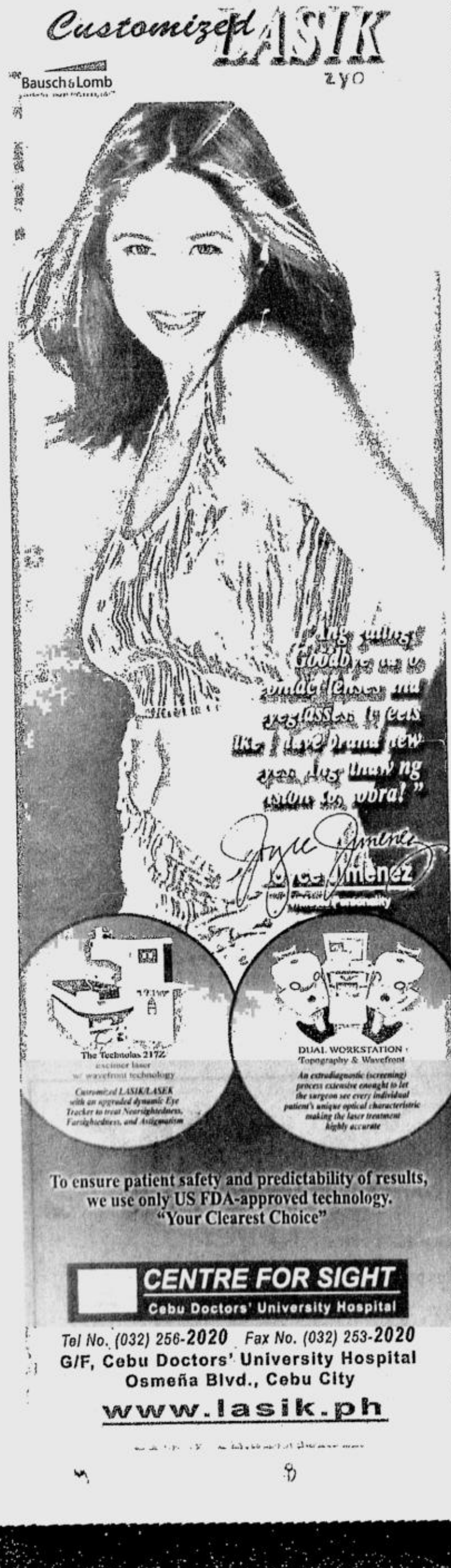
Hillary Snowton, 40, sat on the sidewalk outside with a piece of white sheet tied around his face like a bandanna as he stared at a body that had been lying on a chaise lounge for four days, its stocking feet peeking out from under a quilt.

"It's for the smell of the dead body," he said of the sheet. His brother-in-law, Octave Carter, 42, said it has been "every day, every morning, breakfast, lunch and dinner looking at it."

When asked why he didn't move further away from the corpse, Carter replied, "it stinks everywhere."

Dan Craig, director of recovery at the Federal Emergency Management Agency, said it could take up to six months to get the water out of New Orleans, and the city would then need to dry out, which could take up to three more months.

A Saks Fifth Avenue store billowed smoke Saturday, as did rows of warehouses on the east bank of the Mississippi River, where corrugated roofs buckled and tiny explosions erupted. Gunfire—almost two dozen shots—broke out in the French Quarter. *INQUIRER wires*



Pagcor funds ...

From page A1

(CBCP) made a stand against accepting money from institutions that promoted gambling.

"We are just trying to share (with the poor) what we have, especially as the times are difficult and prices are going up," Vidal said.

Amid the controversy, the Church maintains its stand against supporting any form of gambling, according to Vidal.

A source in Pagcor earlier named Vidal, Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla, Archbishop Paciano Aniceto of Pampanga, Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra and Malolos Bishop Jose Oliveros as recipients of donations from the intelligence fund of Pagcor chair Efraim Genuino.

The donations ranged from P500,000 to P4 million.

The source said the bishops, 45 priests and monsignors, and 18 religious groups received a total of P3.30 million in Christmas "cash gifts" in 2003 alone.

Vidal allegedly received P500,000 on at least four occasions since 2002.

Last month, former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman quoted President Macapagal-Arroyo as having told a group of Cabinet members that she could not sack Genuino, an associate of her husband's, because "he takes care of media and the bishops."

At the height of calls for Ms Arroyo's resignation in July, the CBCP backed the impeachment process and the creation of a truth commission. The President is accused of stealing the polls and of financing her election campaign with money from operators of "jueteng," an illegal numbers game.

Capalla acknowledged receiving cash donations from Pagcor but saw nothing wrong with it.

Bishop returned money

Navarra yesterday denied ever receiving any money from Pagcor.

In fact, he said, on his first year as bishop of Bacolod in 2000 he returned the P200,000 check that Pagcor-Bacolod had given him.

Navarra said he would write the author of the INQUIRER article that named him as one of the bishops who had received Pagcor cash donations "to know who his source is."

"I never asked for money from Pagcor and never received any from them. I don't know if somebody received it," he said.

Navarra said he was not taking gambling money as contributions to the Church because "gambling promotes values that are destructive to morals and wholesome Christian life. It caters to laziness, depending on sheer luck, and affects very much the life of the people, especially our poor."

He said he was fully behind the the CBCP stand not to accept funds from gambling activities. "[W]hether legalized or not, I am not for gambling."

The synod of the Diocese of Bacolod has been calling on the faithful not to engage in gambling because the Church wants to promote wholesome values among the people, according to the bishop.

List of beneficiaries

In Cebu, Msgr. Achilles Dakay, the archdiocese's media liaison officer, earlier said Cardinal Vidal had directed the archdiocesan office of economic affairs to prepare the list of all donations received from Pagcor and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and where they went so that the public may know.

Dakay had said the list would be released to the media this week.

An activist priest said the Church's desire to help the poor should not lead it to use "dirty" money from gambling so that it would not be thought of as promoting such activities.

"The Church should learn to look for funds that are clean," Fr. Robert Reyes said

Reyes said he was very disturbed by Capalla's statement that there was nothing wrong with receiving donations from Pagcor because these go to projects benefiting the poor.

"If we receive money from Pagcor, then it means we are supporting Pagcor and gambling. To pursue the logic of the argument, there's nothing to prevent priests from going to casinos because the money spent there goes to the poor," he said in a phone interview.

He said the acceptance of "easy money" from gambling institutions was a symbol of the Church's failure to promote stewardship, or getting the rich to help the needy.

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Rightist US Chief Justice Rehnquist dies

WASHINGTON—Chief Justice William Rehnquist, who took part in rulings ranging from abortion rights to President George W. Bush's election win, put a strong conservative imprint on the US Supreme Court which plays a central role in American society.

Rehnquist, who died at his home in the Washington suburbs on Saturday at the age of 80, led the court for 18 of his 33 years on the bench.

Rehnquist, who died following a battle with thyroid cancer, will be remembered as the man who presided over the impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton, and for leading the court to a razor-thin decision on Florida ballots which handed George W. Bush the 2000 election.

He was also one of two dissenters in the landmark Roe vs Wade case in 1973 which ruled that abortion was a constitutional right for women.

Rehnquist has been a controversial figure ever since he was nominated to the court by President Richard Nixon, a conservative Republican, in 1971.

Rehnquist was a strong opponent of abortion, gay rights, gun control and affirmative action for minorities.

A fierce defender of the death penalty and one of the most conservative justices on the nine-member bench, Rehnquist often wrote a divergent opinion, earning himself the title "Lone Ranger."

REHNQUIST AP

But in the 1980s and 1990s, his positions became more influential in court decisions as the American people became more conservative.

Rehnquist was in the 5-4 majority in the Bush vs Gore case, which halted recounts of contested ballots in Florida in the bitterly divisive 2000 election, giving Bush a 537 vote victory.

The chief justice also presided in the Senate during the 1999 impeachment hearings against Clinton who was accused of lying under oath about his affair with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

One of his final ceremonial appearances came when he poignantly rose from his sick bed to swear in Bush for a second term in January, in a rasping voice, and withered by his battle with cancer.

Rehnquist was a firm believer in limiting the power of the federal government to shape national policy on divisive issues such as race and sex.

Reflecting the conservative views of President Ronald Reagan, who made him the nation's 16th chief justice, Rehnquist espoused the federalist "states' rights" position, arguing that the 50 states are partners, not subjects, of the federal government.

Rehnquist backed that view in scores of decisions, such as the 1997 ruling that threw out a key portion of the controversial Brady law on handgun control. In a 5-4 decision, the justices said the federal government cannot force local police to conduct background checks on potential handgun buyers.

"His ideological consistency shaped the new emerging conservative court," David Savage wrote in his 1992 book "Turning Right: The Making of the Rehnquist Supreme Court."

"In large measure, the ideology of the Rehnquist court was the ideology of William Rehnquist."

Rehnquist won praise for his informal style and light touch. He was known to make bets with employees and colleagues on football games and enjoy trivia contests with clerks.

"Rehnquist's relaxed manner and dry wit had not only tempered disputes among the justices but also inspired loyalty to the chief," Savage wrote. *AFP*

Death of Rehnquist sets stage for new battle

By Maxim Kniazkov

WASHINGTON— Coming on the heels of the retirement of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor in July, the death of Chief Justice William Rehnquist, broadens the political fight over the makeup of the Supreme Court, which plays a key role in shaping America's political and social landscape.

Federal appeals court Judge John Roberts, a conservative, has been named by Bush to replace O'Connor. But although his initial reception in Congress was positive, Roberts is expected to face a tough confirmation hearing, during which his positions on issues ranging from abortion to the role of government will be closely scrutinized.

The hearings are scheduled to start this week.

Rehnquist's passing means the president will have wage a second major political battle over a successor, who is likely to be a social conservative like Rehnquist.

The most mentioned name to become chief justice is Antonin Scalia, a pillar of the Supreme Court's conservative faction. Appeals court Judge Michael Luttig or US Attorney General Alberto Gonzales are seen as likely candidates to take Scalia's place.

Sensing a sea change ahead, National Organization for Women president Kim Gandy warned early Sunday that Rehnquist's death gives Bush an opportunity to "not only upset the delicate balance on this Supreme Court, but also extend his right-wing ideology and disregard for individual rights to the third branch of government—the judiciary."

Rehnquist had been in and out of hospital ever since his condition was diagnosed.

But with rumors about his retirement swirling, Renhquist moved forcefully to quash them in July, insisting in a statement he would not retire.

He was first appointed to the Supreme Court in 1971 by President Richard Nixon and elevated to chief justice by President Ronald Reagan in 1986.

Rehnquist was a strong opponent of abortion, gay rights, gun control and affirmative action for minorities. Even as a law clerk with the Supreme Court in the early 1950s, he wrote a memorandum arguing against school desegregation.

He never shirked from defending his views even in the minority, dissenting in the key Roe vs Wade case in 1973, which recognized abortion as a constitutional right.

He battled against the expansion of federal powers and spoke in favor of state rights.

In 1999, he presided over the impeachment trial—and acquittal—of President Bill Clinton in the Senate over accusations that he lied about his affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

A year later, Rehnquist and four other Republican-nominated justices, ordered the end of a presidential election ballot recount in Florida, giving the presidency to Bush.

Born Oct. 1, 1924, William Hubbs Rehnquist grew up in Shorewood, in the midwestern state of Wisconsin.

The son of an affluent wholesale paper salesman, he earned a master's degree in political science followed by a law degree from Stanford University in California. *AFP*

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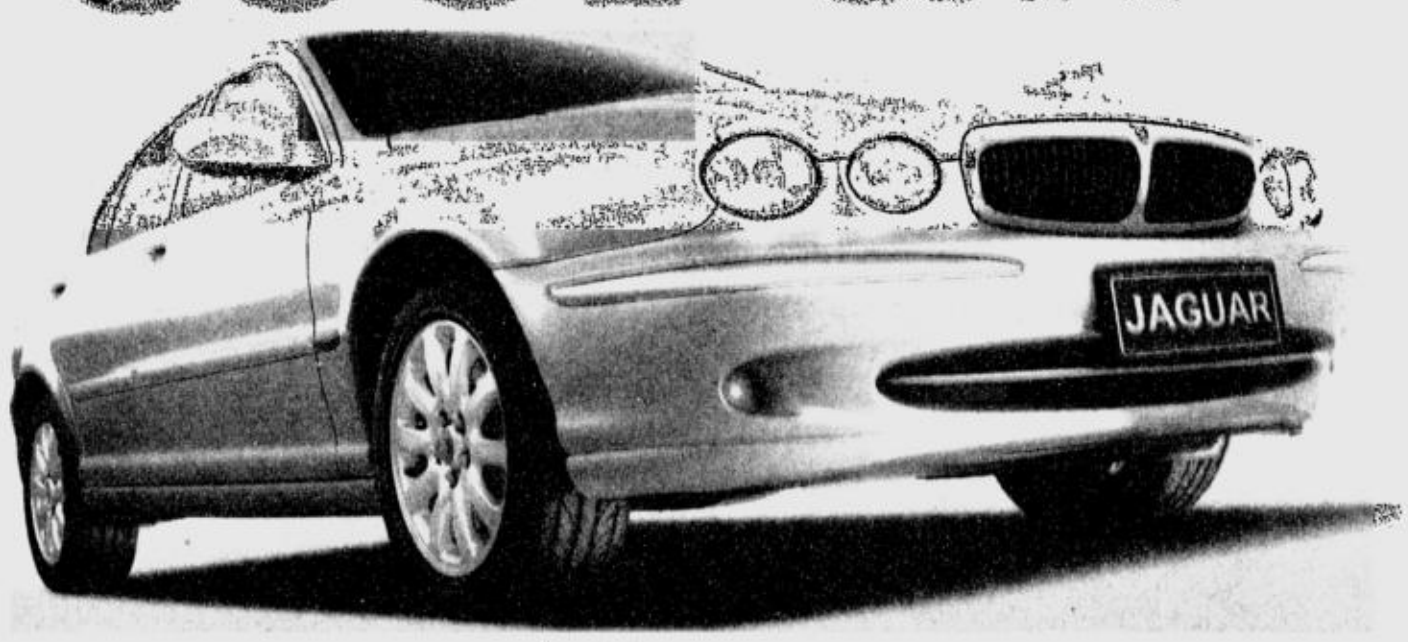

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Marathon talks at UN to rescue world summit

By Evelyn Leopold

UNITED NATIONS—UN ambassadors conducted marathon crisis talks over the weekend to rescue a world summit and some questioned whether a meaningful document could still be produced in two weeks' time.

All the major issues—development, human rights councils, a peace-building commission, terrorism, disarmament and nonproliferation, protection of people threatened with genocide and UN management reforms—were still unresolved in negotiations on Saturday among a core group of 32 nations.

"One of the definitions of madness is you keep doing the same thing but you expect different results," said Pakistan's UN ambassador, Munir Akram. "We are in a crisis situation at the moment."

Secretary General Kofi Annan had hoped the Sept. 14-16 summit of 175 world leaders, including US President George W. Bush, would map out new approaches to the international system.

Rich nations were to agree on a development agenda in exchange for support on Western demands on human rights, terrorism and UN management reforms following a spate of scandals.

General Assembly President Jean Ping, Gabon's foreign minister, hoped to produce another draft document by Tuesday or Wednesday that took the myriad views into consideration as the diplomats planned talks through the US Labor Day holiday weekend.

"If it's all night, it's all right," said US Ambassador John Bolton. "Our feeling is that we can still achieve a strong outcome document."

But India's ambassador, Nirupam Sen, said the final document would be less comprehensive than the current 39-page draft "because quite clearly there are certain differences which are insurmountable, so the level of detail will have to be less."

Bolton, who has put forward a host of amendments, contends the United Nations was trying to paper over differences that have existed for years and serious negotiations did not get under way until recently.

"It's a mistake to think that you can pretend that there aren't disagreements on some of these issues," he said. "A negotiation process is like making sausage. It isn't necessarily pretty."

The 25-member European Union stands by the current draft along with many African and Latin American nations, and blames both the United States and a group of skilled, vocal ambassadors, including those from Pakistan, Egypt, Algeria, Iran, Cuba and Venezuela, of drowning out other voices.

Dutch Ambassador Dirk van den Berg, one of the key negotiators for Ping, the assembly president, estimated that the draft document was supported by some 125 countries.

"This document did not come from air. It already contains a golden means on certain issues but at the same time there is a negotiating process," he said.

But India's Sen said differences were insurmountable, citing disarmament, nonproliferation and intervention in another country in case of war crimes or genocide. *Reuters*

WHAT YOU SEE MAY NOT BE TRUE
Bread that resembles body parts are put at the storage room in Ratchaburi province, 100 km west of Bangkok, Sept. 4. The owner of the bakery shop made the bread to reflect the Buddhist philosophy of "Do not believe in what you see, and what you see might not be true as you thought." REUTERS

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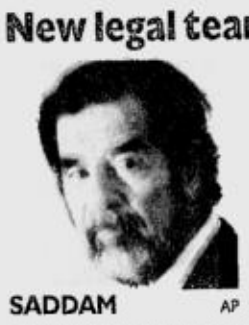
Avoiding crib death

STOCKHOLM—As many as one in 10 cases of sudden infant death syndrome could be avoided by early screening for a heart problem and proper treatment, researchers said on Sunday. Scientists have long suspected some cases of SIDS, also known as cot death or crib death, may be due to an electrical problem called long Q-T syndrome, in which the heart recharges itself too slowly. Now a study released at the European Society of Cardiology annual meeting in Stockholm has shown at least 8.4 percent of SIDS victims carry genetic mutations associated with this and related heart arrhythmias. Prof. Peter Schwartz of the University of Pavia in Italy and colleagues from Oslo University said the actual percentage was probably closer to 10 percent to 12 percent. Since effective therapies exist for treating long Q-T syndrome, Schwartz said the deaths of many babies could be avoided by electrocardiogram (ECT) screening in the first month of life. *Reuters*

New legal team for Saddam



SADDAM AP

AMMAN—The family of former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein has reorganized his defense team and announced plans to launch a media campaign ahead of his trial next month on charges of crimes against humanity. The move came as Iraq government spokesperson Laith Kubba announced that Saddam Hussein and seven of his former henchmen will go on trial on Oct. 19 over with the massacre of 143 people in the village of Dujail. Under measures adopted by Saddam's eldest daughter Raghad, Saddam will be assigned a new legal committee of international lawyers headed by Iraqi lawyer Khalil Dulaimi, with the deposed leader having the final say on the team. Saddam's previous legal team, a collection of about 1,500 Arab and foreign lawyers and supporters, was disbanded last month amid an apparent row over conflicting advice and an abundance of public declarations about the case. *AFP*

12 die in fire south of Paris

PARIS—Twelve people, including two children, were killed and 35 injured, some of them seriously, after fire broke out in an apartment block in a southern Paris suburb overnight, according to the latest toll from firefighters Sunday. It was the third major fire to hit the Paris area in 10 days, but officials said the latest fire was in no way similar to the other two, which involved squats. Four people were arrested following the fire, police said, releasing no details on them. Town Mayor Patrick Sève said that witnesses described seeing youths set fire to letter boxes in the entrance hall of the building. *AFP*

Chirac in hospital with eye problem

PARIS—French President Jacques Chirac was in a Paris military hospital on Saturday with a blood vessel problem that has affected his vision and will keep him there for up to a week. The 72-year-old French leader was on good form after being admitted on Friday but has canceled all appointments for the coming week, including talks with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder on Tuesday, officials said. *Reuters*

Malaysia to build half-bridge

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia will start work on a controversial new bridge halfway to Singapore even though its neighbor has yet to announce plans to build the other half over the waterway which separates them, a report said Sunday. Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has given the "thumbs up" to the new bridge and Singapore would be told Tuesday of the decision in bilateral meetings, the New Straits Times reported, citing unnamed sources. The newspaper said the new bridge on the Malaysian side had been designed to allow Singapore to link up to it later—a move that would apparently leave the bridge half-built across the Johor Strait. *AFP*

Kidnapped Briton found dead

KABUL—A Briton kidnapped in Afghanistan was found dead on Saturday and Taliban rebels said they killed him, while in a separate incident, the Taliban said they killed an election candidate and four government officials. Also on Saturday, an Afghan doctor said two bodies found dumped in a desert in the south were Japanese tourists who went missing last month. The two, a man and a woman, had been shot in the head, he said. In the latest in a surge of fighting in the run-up to Sept. 18 elections, the Defense Ministry said 16 Taliban were killed in a battle in the central province of Uruzgan on Saturday. Briton David Addison, who the Afghan government said was working on security for a road project, was kidnapped with an interpreter in the west of the country on Wednesday. *Reuters*

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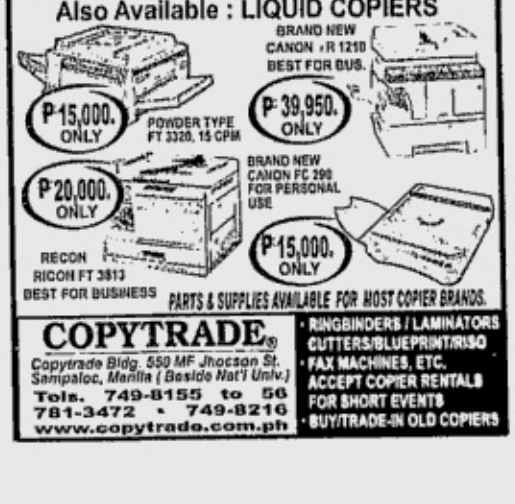

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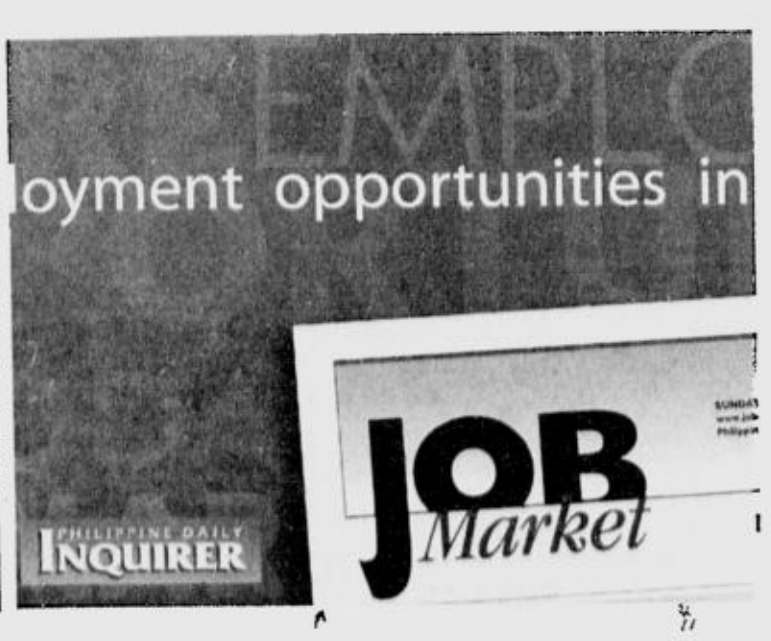

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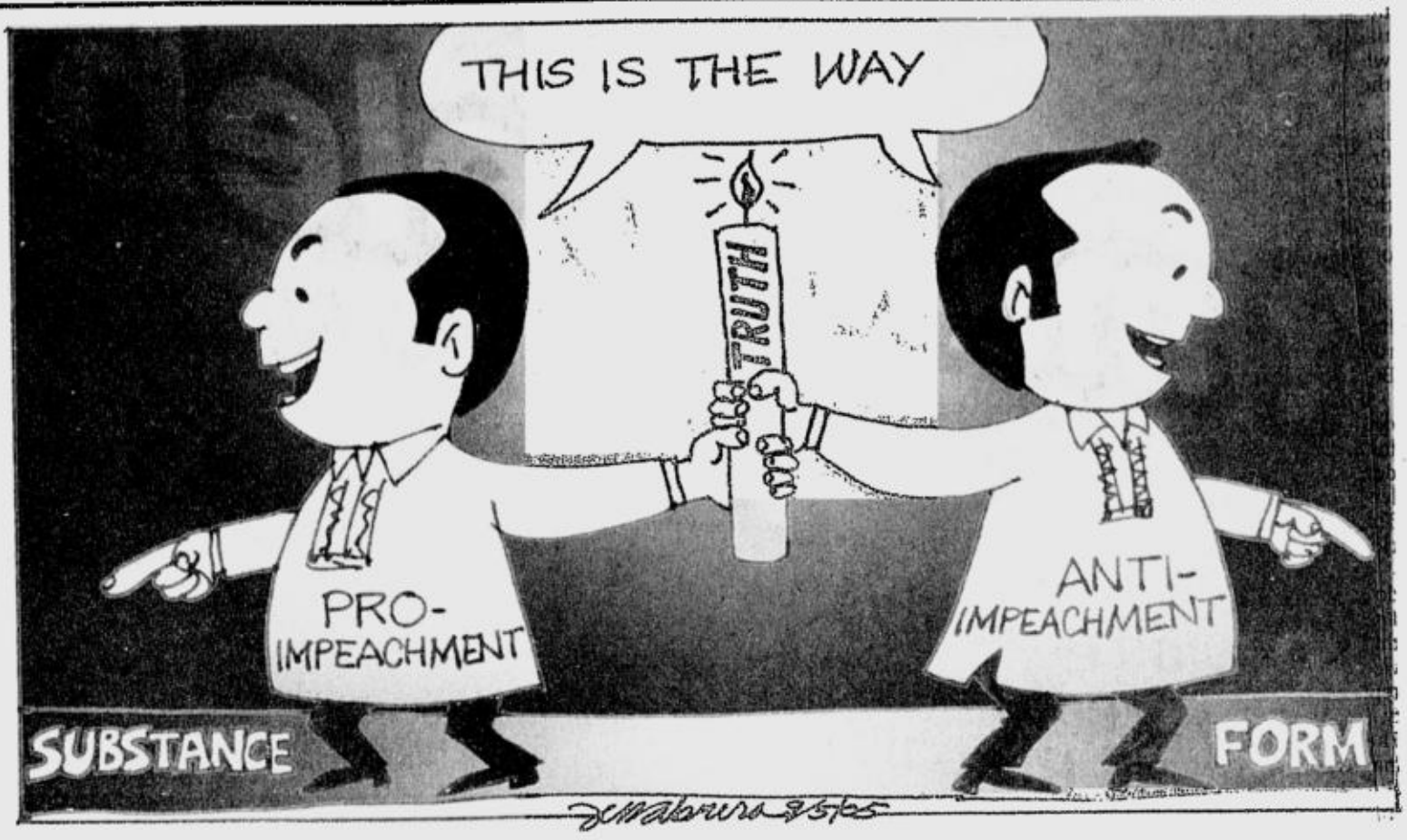

Last stand

EDITORIAL

PRO-IMPEACHMENT congressmen see in today's plenary session a do-or-die situation. "We will make our last stand at the plenary," House Minority Leader Francis Escudero declared last Thursday.

The administration majority may not necessarily oblige them. Even if—as has been widely reported—the committee on justice under Rep. Simeon Datumanong submits its report to the plenary today, the Constitution allows the House of Representatives to calendar the "consideration" of the committee's resolutions "within 10 session days from receipt thereof."

It is quite possible that, in an attempt to arrest the momentum the pro-impeachment camp gained since the justice committee voted down all three impeachment complaints against the President last Wednesday, the House leadership will opt to delay the moment of reckoning.

Possible, but not likely. The decision of the House leadership to accelerate the pace of work in Datumanong's committee after the controversial walkout on Tuesday convinces us that the administration's strategy at this stage remains image-oriented: The plan is to ensure that President Macapagal-Arroyo does not face any formal charges when she presides over a rare UN Security Council summit on Sept. 14 in New York City.

Delaying consideration of the justice committee's report may mean moving the day of reckoning to after Sept. 19, when Congress resumes its session after a nine-day break. But we can see this happening only if the coming together of anti-Arroyo forces—symbolized by the meeting of former President Corazon Aquino, opposition icon Susan Roces, and Hyatt 10 leader Dinky Soliman at the inter-faith assembly in De La Salle University last Friday—gathers enough momentum by this afternoon to threaten the administration's strategy.

The real focus of attention, of course, remains the pursuit of the 79, or one-third of the House membership. But it is no longer enough to get their signatures. The pro-impeachment bloc in Congress needs at least 79 congressmen to show up today, ready to vote.

If the committee report is considered today, the pro-impeachment bloc needs to do either of the following: Muster at least 79 votes against the resolution rejecting the second and the amended complaints (thus keeping the amended complaint alive). Or muster at least 79 votes against the resolution finding the original Lozano complaint insufficient in substance (thus keeping the impeachment case itself alive). If the 79 votes are there, then in the view of constitutional expert Joaquin Bernas, S.J., the complaints will be returned to the justice committee for "formal investigation."

Will the young congressmen running the impeachment bloc rise to the occasion? We are not too sure, judging by Escudero's own pendulum metaphor. "We get three more [signatures], but two are deducted," he said. "This is probably the story of impeachment in the country."

But as Escudero knows all too well, this seesaw battle is most emphatically **not** the story of impeachment in our country. He himself was a part of the ultimately unsuccessful second impeachment case against Chief Justice Hilario Davide, which gained the support of more than one-third of the House membership before Speaker Jose de Venecia called for an early recess. The complaint against President Joseph Estrada reached the one-third mark in about two weeks. On the other hand, the complaints against election commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco and Ombudsman Aniano Desierto never came close to breaching the one-third level. The point is: In previous impeachment cases, the trend, whether for or against, was clear.

But the case against President Arroyo is a completely different kind of political conflict. Are Escudero and other young guns fighting this war with the wrong lessons from the past? It is unfortunate if they are, because the public's need remains the same: The most serious charges against the President must be formally investigated. That is the only way to end the crisis of legitimacy that now surrounds her. Does it really matter that she presides over the UN summit without the stain of impeachment charges? That is the price of democracy, which many other nations cannot even pay.

EVAT could hasten GMA's fall

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE SUPREME Court decision upholding the constitutionality of the expanded value added tax law may be a blessing in disguise for the Filipino people, two-thirds of whom, according to opinion surveys, want Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo out. The EVAT, when implemented, will bring untold hardships to the people, and it could hasten the ouster of GMA. The increase in the prices of commodities, fuel and electricity will surely further infuriate a people already angry over the shameless murder of the impeachment case by the pro-administration House justice committee. The people might just go back to the streets and demand GMA's resignation or forcible ouster. Even those who did not join the street protests before will join this time, for there is nothing more left for them to do but to protest. The crowds will get bigger and bigger, and angrier, until they finally chase GMA out of Malacañang as they did President Estrada.

Some administration legislators already see this gathering storm and they are proposing the suspension of the EVAT, fearing that the explosion of public anger would bring down the administration. Rep. Joey Salceda and Sen. Mar Roxas have filed measures to exempt at least fuel and electricity from EVAT coverage. Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez goes farther: "Why not just repeal the EVAT law?"

Indeed, raising taxes at a time when the price of oil is rising to unprecedented levels is foolhardy and reckless, even suicidal. And stupid, if you ask me. More sensible governments subsidize oil expenses to lighten the burden on their people. The Arroyo administration is doing the opposite, stacking instead the shoulders of an already overburdened people with more taxes—because GMA's administration desperately needs additional taxes in the face of a big budget deficit and an enormous debt burden. So it is loathe to suspend even part of the EVAT.

But as the saying goes, "You cannot squeeze blood out of a turnip." You cannot squeeze more taxes out of a people who have nothing more to give. Many Filipinos eat only once or twice a day. Too many have no jobs and no roofs over their heads. At present, our power rates are the highest in Asia next to Japan which has a very high standard of living.

When the EVAT is implemented, we may yet top Japan's power rates. And when the prices of fuel and power rise, transportation fares will also rise, and so will the prices of all products.

The peace and order situation will worsen, the crime rate will soar. What is happening now in hurricane-ravaged New Orleans, where looters are shooting policemen and soldiers, can happen here. If a family has nothing to eat, what are they to do? Hunger makes people desperate and reckless. All it needs for widespread looting to happen is for one person to start it. We already had examples of this in the past. It is likely to happen again.

But it is the fate of many leaders not to see what is coming until it is too late. Blinded by power, isolated from reality, surrounded by sycophants, leaders are often overconfident, believing that they are smarter than the others who fell before them. President Erap himself related that he was confident he could not be overthrown, until he found an angry mob knocking at the gates of Malacañang, and he had to leave in a hurry.

Marcos, a very powerful dictator for 20 years, was also confident his generals would protect him. They couldn't—even from unarmed, non-violent civilians.

GMA is confident that the worst is over for her. The impeachment case is in the process of being killed and buried. The street protests are not as big as before. The opposition is being run over on the railroad by the House "express train."

But that is the lull before the storm. A raging storm is coming and its furious gales could blow GMA away. The prudent way is to leave before the storm hits, like the millions in New Orleans, Louisiana, Mississippi who evacuated their homes before Hurricane Katrina hit. They were spared the sufferings of those who stubbornly stayed behind. Will GMA be sensible and leave early? Or will she be foolish and overconfident, and choose to stay put and bear the fury of the storm that is surely coming?

* * *

GMA is beginning to sound like a broken record. All her speeches have the same theme: Let us unite.

Unfortunately, she doesn't know the meaning of "unite." For her, it means "Support me," "get behind me," "don't expose my wrongdoings," "forget my past sins," "don't rock the boat."

But "unite" means everybody getting together and working together, not "uniting around me." She also has to give something to the people; it shouldn't be that only the people are giving to her.

For the taxes and cooperation of the people, she should give them something in return, like services, jobs, affordable necessities but, most of all, truth, honesty, justice, sincerity and transparency.

But what do the people get from her? Lies, cheating, injustice, insincerity.

Why will the people pay more taxes when they see their taxes being used to bribe mercenaries, congressmen and lying witnesses? Before she asks the people to pay more, GMA should first stop the pork barrel. She must have the moral authority to demand a clean government. How can she truthfully say that she is fighting corruption when the pork barrel is a most corrupt system where hundreds of thousands of pesos are stolen by people's "representatives"? The pork barrel should be the first thing that a president trying to save funds should cut. But GMA is afraid to scrap it because she would have no carrot to entice congressmen not to sign the impeachment complaint. Come on, you cannot make the people believe that those signature withdrawals are not in exchange for very generous considerations.

One night in La Salle

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

GOING to La Salle Greenhills last Friday offered a metaphor of sorts. I took the MRT, figuring it would be the hardest thing in the world to park inside or near the campus. What I didn't figure was that it would be a long walk from the nearest station. When I finally got to the place though, my shirt clinging to my back from sweat—it was a warm night, after intermittent rain in the day; thunder and lightning would break out later in the night—I was glad I commuted.

There was a fair-sized crowd gathered there, people with disparate political beliefs come to affirm a truth. Namely, that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was not the President of this country. The pro-impeachment representatives were there, the resigned Hyatt 10 were there, the heads of various groups calling for GMA to resign were there. Above all, Susan Roces and Corazon Aquino were there.

My first thought was to wonder if I hadn't studied in the wrong school. La Salle has been far more consistent with its moral principles. Ateneo discovers righteous anger only with tyrants it doesn't like. Maybe being a "Brother" gives a sharper sense of right and wrong than being a "Father." Maybe, I am rooting for the wrong basketball team.

My second thought—which is really the metaphor—was that I might have underestimated the length and arduousness of the walk, but I was finally there. Seeing Susan and Cory sitting side by side, hearing Mass, I had a sense of another long and sweat-inducing walk nearing its end.

If the Church, the holdover businessmen, and an apathetic public still cannot see which is the side of the angels and which of the devils, then they will never see anything. Then this country will have been stricken incurably blind. The images offer stark contrast: Cory and Susan on one side, GMA and Joe de V on the other. Public officials who have gotten richer from the goodwill of their constituents on one side, congressmen and local officials who have gotten poorer from being bought by an unelected president on the other. The power of boundless faith on one side, faith in boundless power on the other.

I told a friend that I thought the gathering at La Salle was the most powerful statement yet issued by those seeking GMA's ouster. The mere fact of The Two Widows standing side by side, arm in arm, said a lot more than a hundred speeches or manifestos combined. This was potent symbolism, as potent as Ramon Magsaysay carrying the lifeless body of Moises Padilla (for the kids who've never heard of Ramon Magsaysay or Moises Padilla, go research), or Ninoy Aquino lying lifeless on the tarmac. These were two widows who lost more than their husbands, these were two widows who lost their innocence by the hand of tyranny. Seeing them together conjured a phrase that had been lost for a time in the haze of public apathy and forgetfulness, "*Hindi ka nag-iisa*." You are not alone. Except that there you wanted to say, "*Hindi kayo nag-iisa*."

My friend said, yes, it's the women who are doing everything in this country today. I said, yes, the good and the bad.

I just have a couple of quibbles with the gathering last Friday. The first is that the theme of the gathering being "Bukluran Para Sa Katotohanan," or "Unity for Truth," it could have done with proffering the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. One of those fundamental truths being that many of the people there were also fully to blame for the bane they now wanted to end. It wasn't just that they created the monster that was GMA—it was their support till well past midnight that emboldened her to become what she is. (Feel free to supply your own descriptions.) It was also that some of them actually helped her cheat in the last elections. Not least some of the leaders of the Black and White Movement, who called for that gathering along with the La Salle brothers, who used Namfrel to trend the counting and insisted afterward the elections were fair and clean. I have yet to hear them retract that contention.

I wish the next gathering for truth would have Bill Luz and Dinky Soliman, among others, vowing never to help create another Frankenstein monster and promising to atone for their sins by never counting another vote in serving in government again—quite apart, of course, from returning the ill-gotten Peace Bonds. What they say about GMA applies to them too: No rectification without admission. No contrition without restitution.

The second is that Susan Roces never spoke last Friday. For reasons I cannot fathom. She is was who did the heroic thing by agreeing to forget hurts and be one with the people now fighting to restore justice, notwithstanding that many of them committed the injustice of helping GMA cheat her husband of his rightful place, which is Malacañang. She it was who had all the moral authority to talk about being aggrieved and tyrannized, who stood to coax the people into saying, "*Hindi ka nag-iisa*." By all rights, she should have been the one inviting the others to join her cause, not they she.

But I will leave all that aside for the nonce and join in the spirit of prayer. For the nonce, I will believe in the capacity of human beings to change for the better, to pull themselves up to their true height, which at its best is always higher than their physical one, after having fallen so low. Heaven knows nobody's perfect, though some are far more consistently imperfect than others. For the nonce, I will believe in the capacity of people to rise above themselves, and driven by the compelling force of God, history, or truth—however you choose to call it—move to rectify their mistakes. Heaven knows nobody's perfect, but some strive to be more so than others.

Who knows? Maybe God is a woman, too. That should make it three against one.

We will never know for sure

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

WHETHER or not Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo really won the presidency by defeating Fernando Poe Jr. and Ping Lacson, we will never know. By "we," I mean those of us who had no hand in the much talked-about manipulation of the last presidential election. And, of course, there are also those who do not care to know what does not affect their exclusive lives.

We could have had some degree of certainty had the inquiry made by the Supreme Court, as Presidential Electoral Tribunal, reached completion. But when FPJ died, the inquiry stopped with the Court's refusal to allow his widow to substitute for the candidate—even if only for the sake of finding the truth.

The inquiry could have continued if the third placer in the last presidential election, Lacson, had decided to file his own protest. Under the rules of the PET, a third placer may file a protest. But Lacson, for reasons of his own, chose not to.

If the case filed by Loren Legarda against Noli de Castro reaches conclusion, we may also get an inkling of what actually happened in the presidential race. Some of the election returns challenged by FPJ may also be challenged by Legarda. That, however, will not be enough to clear up the cloud that hangs over Ms Arroyo's presidency.

Meanwhile, evidence that seriously casts doubt on Ms Arroyo's victory has been piling up and coming out in the media. For instance, more than one-half of the latest issue of Newsbreak, a weekly news magazine that is fast establishing a reputation for hard-nosed journalism and integrity, is devoted to stories about the last elections. The lead article is titled "Cheats Inc." and it makes serious allegations in persuasive details. It cites some of Ms Arroyo's operators as saying that "they continued to manipulate the votes even after her proclamation"—evidently in anticipation of an election protest. It also alleges that "when the results from Poe's bailiwicks in Luzon came in, the President's margin from the fixed votes in the Visayas was almost wiped out. *Dagdag-bawas* was then carried out in Mindanao."

The anticipated election protest materialized, but it was abruptly ended by the death of FPJ. We may have to wait until the Last Judgment to know the truth. In the meantime, the cloud over the legitimacy of GMA's election will continue to haunt her and affect her capacity to govern.

Contrary to the opinion so warmly defended by a congressman from Mindanao, the impeachment complaint against GMA does not have, for an objective the intent of looking into whether Ms Arroyo won or lost. The congressman argued on the floor of Congress that the impeachment complaint should not be allowed because it is an attempt to resurrect the election protest already ended by the death of FPJ. The good congressman must know that an election protest can be filed only by a defeated candidate who claims to have won the election and who is seeking to take the place of the proclaimed winner. That is not the object of the impeachment complaint, whose object is merely to determine whether Ms Arroyo committed an impeachable offense which can justify her removal from office even if she indeed won the elections.

Whether or not this verification will take place in an impeachment trial is now seriously in doubt. The justice committee of the House of Representatives has decided that the three impeachment complaints should be trashed. If one-third of all the members of the House should uphold the decision of the justice committee, the nation would never know whether the allegations in the three complaints are true.

What are some of these allegations?

I start with the Lozano complaint—admittedly the weakest—and his subsequent supplemental complaints. Lozano alleges that: she has been silent about the wiretapped conversations and about the flight of Garcillano; the silence in both instances amounts to a betrayal of public trust; she lied when she confessed to a lapse in judgment when in fact she called several times—meaning, she made several lapses in judgment; she allowed her husband to go into "exile" as part of a cover-up. The Lozano complaint is suspected of being a "friendly complaint" designed to bar more serious complaints.

There was an attempt by the oppositionists to beef up the Lozano complaint by accusing her of impeding the administration of justice in various manners, and of concealing ownership of various pieces of property contrary to law. She is also accused of tax evasion, of acquiescing in the killing of political dissenters, of approving contracts manifestly disadvantageous to the Republic, of accepting bribe from *jueteng* operators, of undermining the independence of the Commission on Elections, and of knowingly allowing electoral fraud and misuse of government funds for electioneering purposes. Those are a big mouthful of charges.

The authors of the amended complaint sum up their allegations in the following words: "By her conduct, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, President of the Philippines, has undermined the integrity of her office, has brought disrepute on the presidency, has committed culpable violations of the Constitution, bribery and graft and corruption, and betrayed the public trust. By so flouting justice and the rule of law, she has committed an unforgivable outrage against the Filipino people to whom she must answer under the Constitution."

Will we ever hear evidence in support of these accusations? It seems that, in the words of veteran politician Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, these complaints are headed for the trash can. Let's just hope that after the verdict is out, no matter how unsatisfactory, the nation and its leaders will buckle down to work and move on to make this place a little better to live in.

Lies and consequences

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Noralyn Mustafa

OF the three main charges that sum up the impeachment complaint against Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo—lying, cheating and stealing—lying is the easiest to prove. All that we need to do is gather all the video clips and published newspaper articles where Ms Arroyo said or promised one thing but subsequently did the opposite, to our collective dismay.

But, of course, if we take a closer look, lying, cheating and stealing are really almost one and the same.

The oft-recalled and oft-quoted "first lie" was made in 2002, on the death anniversary of our national hero Jose Rizal that year, when she solemnly announced, with a sense of sacrifice and heroism, that she would not run in the 2004 elections because she realized she was dividing the country.

What followed is a history of habitual lying, resulting in the most sordid situation we have ever suffered.

And if like Susan Roces said in her famous "You stole the presidency not once, but twice" speech, stealing is the sibling of lying, then cheating must be its first cousin.

Almost forgotten though was the accompanying promise made on the same occasion: "Instead, as my legacy, I will see to it that we will have the cleanest, most honest and orderly elections." (On hindsight, this was also the most relevant vow.)

But, of course, she started campaigning the very next day and began putting in place anything and everything to ensure the most fraudulent, the most ruthless, the most dishonest and the dirtiest election in memory.

With a distinct taste for the ghoulish, she set in motion this operation to win at all costs. Then national archives department chief Ricardo Manapat used his office and public records under his care to manufacture fraudulent documents for the purpose of dragging from the grave the skeleton of Fernando Poe Sr.; and expose the much-idolized movie star as a bigamist, and his son, Ronnie, who had yet to announce his candidacy, as an illegitimate child and a non-Filipino.

(It is also difficult to forget other images of her fascination with the dead, like her viewing the corpses of slain kidnap-gang leaders, and gleefully announcing that Capt. Panfilo Villaruel had been "neutralized" even as his family was wondering in anguish how to gather the pieces of half of his head that Ms Arroyo's military operatives had blown off. And of course, at the very moment thousands were grieving at the funeral of Fernando Poe Jr., she would triumphantly declare—before the altar at the Palace chapel—that she, after all, won the presidential elections.)

And now she is presiding over the death of a nation.

It is a dying nation where lies are taken as truth for the simple reason that they issue from the head of state; and the truth is murdered by a convoluted interpretation of the very laws that were made to protect it.

It is a dying nation where the governed are alienated from the government which has, almost completely, lost their trust.

It is a dying nation where the people look at policies and programs of government as plots to deceive and delude them, and public officials exist for the sole purpose of making the people's lives more miserable.

And it is a dying nation where the majority of the people don't believe that the head of state has their mandate and is, therefore, a mere impostor squatting on the seat of power.

But worst of all, it is a dead nation that is thwarted at every turn in its every effort to exercise its right to know the truth.

Many people did not want to impeach Ms Arroyo because they believed that only legitimate presidents should face impeachment; and, in any case, an impeachment proceeding would only be an exercise in futility. They have been proven right.

For the same reason, others also objected to the calls for her resignation.

That is why some of the most credible and respected members of society appealed instead to Ms Arroyo's sense of decency, patriotism and honor—even to her sense of shame—and asked her to simply step down. There was nothing to appeal to.

Is Ms Arroyo guilty of lying, cheating and stealing?

From the moment Malacañang manufactured the "genuine" CD of the President's alleged conversation with "Gary" (which to this day no one else has a copy of), in a ridiculous attempt to prove that the Garci-Gloria tapes were fake, through the acts of her functionaries and allies, only the deaf, the blind, the retarded and—yes, the dead—would not see the truth shining through all the duplicity.

It is crucial that our faith in government must be restored. It is very important to our image and prestige in the world community that we have a President who has a clear mandate and is the legitimate representative of our country.

We need to believe again. This is a matter of life and death.

We need to believe, for example, that when the military announces it is on high alert and thousands of policemen are deployed all over the place, it is not for the purpose of suppressing dissent and oppressing and terrorizing unarmed citizens. What if they are really meant to protect us?

We need to believe that when National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales tells us that elements of the Jemaah Islamiyah have entered the country and that we are under serious terrorist threat, it is not a ploy to divert our attention from the present political crisis. What if he is telling the truth?

We, the governed, cannot possibly trust any institution or any official under the administration of a lying President.

The impeachment of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is our last constitutional resort to right what we believe is wrong.

Ms Arroyo's allies in Congress must realize that the stake at hand goes beyond her mere political survival. Or theirs, for that matter.

* * *

Comments to rubaiyat19@yahoo.com

Unity is the only choice

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

TO DIVIDE, and thus conquer: that is the objective of the administration. To unite, and thus be impregnable: that is the challenge of the times.

A broad coalition of forces is heeding that challenge. The coalition was symbolized by Cory Aquino and Susan Roces' coming together in prayer last Friday night. It has a name: "Bukluran para sa Katotohanan." Its statement of principles will be released today.

Does the broad coalition represent only opportunism, desperation and naked ambition? To reflect on this question is to miss the essential point. This isn't about those arrayed against the President. This is about the President. The President showed cunning when she dared anyone who is without sin to cast the first stone, as Jesus did to the people who were about to stone to death a woman accused of adultery.

What the President forgot is that she is not the Christ. She is in the position of the woman accused of adultery. The closest that we can come to a stand-in for Christ is not the president of a secular state, but the Catholic bishops who said, "if she is accused of adultery, let the charges be investigated." They did not say, "No, she did not commit adultery," or "No, we are morally convinced no adultery took place." They said: "There are too many disturbing details in the allegations, and so some sort of human justice must take its course."

What did the country get? No form of human justice. No truth commission, and quite possibly, no impeachment. What it got, instead, is the woman accused of adultery proclaiming that all are adulterers, which is beside the point.

You would think she never went to school. In school, you can break the rules many times, even cheat many times, but once you get caught, it is irrelevant if the entire class broke the rules with you, or cheated with you, because you're the one who has been caught. You're the one who gets punished. As it is for being caught cutting class, or copying notes, so it is for adultery and any conceivable sin—including the sins that are in a class of their own, because only presidents can commit them.

It boggles the mind that someone accused of committing adultery against the nation—for after all, a president, some say, is wedded to the country—should now be proclaiming that everyone is an adulterer, and even suggesting that adultery be decriminalized. The price of adultery is supposed to be an annulment or divorce. It is not supposed to result in a coronation, much less the transformation of the state into a world-class bordello, which is what the move to institute Charter change is meant to do. But to do so is to be unfair to whores; it reduces all politics to the level of prostitution, where it may be now, but where it ought not to remain. Furthermore, to do so makes certain that politics never rises above the level of whoring, without taking into account that the ones agitating for the prostitutes' rights are not the prostitutes themselves but the pimps. For even if you say that the people are a bunch of whores, what has driven them and keeps them in prostitution? The pimps. It is the pimps who make a whore out of the public for the pleasure of vested interests.

This whole political crisis is about change and a fundamental reality about our society (which thrives on open secrets, but which reserves a curious kind of fury for those caught doing what everyone knew they were doing all along). Is it unfair? The President thinks so; but it is very Filipino.

We all have dirty linen, and no one wants them exposed. But once exposed, they must be washed, and some sort of redemption must be achieved.

The religious-minded can reflect on the fact that Jesus kept company with tax collectors and prostitutes, but he was the Christ and his objective was to show no one was beyond redemption. In a political crisis, such as the one taking place, the President has refused to acknowledge culpability and defied every attempt to clear her name. Her supporters say, it is because those prosecuting her are as dirty as she is, or that their objective is not to clear the President's name but to topple her from power.

They forget that it requires neither sainthood nor good character or intentions to be a prosecutor and pursue a prosecution. There are accusations of sanctimoniousness and false piety all around, to be sure. But who, in our government, is expected to be the exemplar of secular virtues, or at the very least, the kind of leadership unafraid to be challenged? Who, of our leaders, must be imbued with a firm and unflinching faith and confidence in the people? Only the President of the Philippines has that burden and responsibility.

The President not only confuses herself with Christ; she thinks she is living in biblical times. The President's supporters see red flags, the faces of disreputable politicians, the lack of teeth in the ranks of the protesting poor, the inability of the clergy to undertake a crusade, the defection of some of the President's own people, and see a motley group of the disgruntled. They should see, instead, a grave crisis in the legitimacy of the President and in the society she exemplifies. She was given so much, and did so little; she could have led so well, instead she leads so badly; she could have given the country hope, but she had so little faith in her people and herself that she has done, and is doing, things that have brought her to the level of the worst of our past leaders. She continues to fatally divide her people. As Oliver Cromwell said to the Long Parliament, "You have sat too long for any good you have been doing. Depart, I say, and let us have done with you. In the name of God, go!"

Naiveté or hypocrisy?

COMMENTARY

Rigoberto D. Tiglao

THERE has been a display of naiveté (some call it hypocrisy)—contrived or not—by the so-called Black and White Movement, over the political war that has raged in the past three months. The people behind the movement portray their stance merely as a search for truth.

But the election-fraud charges, which led to the drive for President Macapagal-Arroyo to resign and—after that failed—for her impeachment, didn't evolve just out of the blue. The core of the campaign to unseat the President (the so-called "Garci" tapes) didn't surface on its own. The *jueteng* witnesses (all admitted bagmen[woman] of gambling lords) didn't get conscience-stricken just suddenly in June, the reason they turned whistle-blowers. This mix of "exposés" and people is a major element of a political strategy.

The metaphor of a political storm is a bit misleading. The turmoil in the past months represents the big offensive initiated by three major political forces determined to unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo at all costs. The turmoil is not just the result of a confluence of factors and events. These camps have been ranged against her since Day One of her first term, continuously plotting to overwhelm the administration's democratic ramparts.

1. The Erap and FPJ forces. They cannot accept the fact that a once popular president is in detention while the court deliberates on the corruption allegations against him. Indeed, for the first time in our nation's history, a former president has been put in jail. This unprecedented development—a quantum leap toward the strengthening of our institutions—has not been without cost. It is a major factor that explains the continuous political turbulence since 2001.

FPJ in the 2004 elections was their big hope to free Erap. They failed, and so they proceeded to implement their Plan B: discredit the elections and, they hope, in the resulting public outrage, pressure the President to resign. Who was the main disseminator of the alleged "Garci" tapes? Alan Paguia, Erap's lawyer.

2. The Communist Party and its front organizations. The Leninist-Maoist dogma calls for a two-pronged political strategy to capture power. First (the Leninist contribution) is to undertake moves to worsen the political situation, and especially "to split the ruling class." The strategy, which Lenin proved effective in Russia in 1917, is to create political chaos, allowing a well-organized party to easily capture power, with the middle forces acquiescing in fear or in the spirit of political opportunism.

Second (the Maoist contribution) is the so-called "mass line": Assume leadership of all anti-establishment causes in order to expand your organization and forge alliances with other political forces.

What has particularly incensed the Communist Party has been its belief that the President worked for its classification by the US government as a terrorist organization. This has reportedly wreaked havoc on the party's international network for fund-raising and transfers.

Jose Ma. Sison's strategy of a rural-based rebel army, combined with "parliamentary struggle," certainly has borne fruit. For the first time in any modern nation's history, Marxist-Leninist cadres are able to hurl vitriol against a democratically elected President, demanding her ouster in the halls of Congress.

3. Sen. Panfilo Lacson's forces. Having left Estrada's shadow and having grown out of his former role as Erap's chief enforcer, Lacson has emerged as a political leader in his own right, drawing Erap's *ronins* into his camp. At least, unlike the civil socialites hypocritically claiming they are only after the truth, Lacson never kept secret his desire or goal to have Ms Arroyo overthrown. As regular as the seasons, Lacson has continuously launched intense political blitzkriegs to crush the President's credibility with the end-view of unseating her.

The disclosure that Lacson had asked an Australian outfit to authenticate a three-hour tape before its existence was alleged by an ex-NBI officer bolsters suspicions that the "Garci" tapes were his project.

Other smaller forces have wanted to unseat Ms Arroyo since 2001; they are lesser predators like hyenas trailing the main pack: the remnants of the Marcos dynasty intent on preserving the wealth it amassed over 20 years; elderly, long-retired generals hallucinating over the Latin American, vintage-1960s juntas; and breakaway groups from the Sison-controlled Communist Party.

Look closely at the main features of the current political battle. What made the current campaign politically possible? The "Garci" tapes could have been acquired—and digitally manipulated—only by someone with an extensive intelligence background. What constitutes the main force of the impeachment camp in Congress? The leftist party-list representatives (10 of them) and prominent figures of the Erap camp, such as his former executive secretary Rep. Ronaldo Zamora. What is the main force in the street rallies, which are held with all agit-prop gimmicks? The Communist Party cadres and activists.

Miscalculating that the political war waged by these veteran forces was moving toward victory, a sector of civil society joined the fray. On July 8, hypocritically claiming it merely wanted to spare the President from further pain, its members carried out a blitz of press conferences to pressure her to resign. They thought the move would give them the leadership of the anti-GMA forces.

In this conflict, political clerics, civil socialites and greenhorn congressmen have pretended, or naively thought themselves, to be noncombatants out only in a spiritual search for truth.

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The three forces—Erap's, the Communist Party's and Lacson's—are the three tigers in the Philippine political jungle, out to devour the President. On Friday evening at La Salle Greenhills, it became obvious that former President Aquino, Dinky Soliman et al., some clerics and civil socialites have, wittingly or unwittingly, mounted these tigers.

Their group's name, Black and White Movement, fits them to a tee. They have chosen to be politically color-blind, and thus unable to discern the predators in the political jungle.

They will find it difficult to dismount. We hope that on the backs of these tigers, they will not be witnesses to the devouring of our democracy.

Secretary Rigoberto D. Tiglao is the head of the Presidential Management Staff.

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We will never know for sure

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

WHETHER or not Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo really won the presidency by defeating Fernando Poe Jr. and Ping Lacson, we will never know. By "we," I mean those of us who had no hand in the much talked-about manipulation of the last presidential election. And, of course, there are also those who do not care to know what does not affect their exclusive lives.

We could have had some degree of certainty had the inquiry made by the Supreme Court, as Presidential Electoral Tribunal, reached completion. But when FPJ died, the inquiry stopped with the Court's refusal to allow his widow to substitute for the candidate—even if only for the sake of finding the truth.

The inquiry could have continued if the third placer in the last presidential election, Lacson, had decided to file his own protest. Under the rules of the PET, a third placer may file a protest. But Lacson, for reasons of his own, chose not to.

If the case filed by Loren Legarda against Noli de Castro reaches conclusion, we may also get an inkling of what actually happened in the presidential race. Some of the election returns challenged by FPJ may also be challenged by Legarda. That, however, will not be enough to clear up the cloud that hangs over Ms Arroyo's presidency.

Meanwhile, evidence that seriously casts doubt on Ms Arroyo's victory has been piling up and coming out in the media. For instance, more than one-half of the latest issue of Newsbreak, a weekly news magazine that is fast establishing a reputation for hard-nosed journalism and integrity, is devoted to stories about the last elections. The lead article is titled "Cheats Inc." and it makes serious allegations in persuasive details. It cites some of Ms Arroyo's operators as saying that "they continued to manipulate the votes even after her proclamation"—evidently in anticipation of an election protest. It also alleges that "when the results from Poe's bailiwicks in Luzon came in, the President's margin from the fixed votes in the Visayas was almost wiped out. *Dagdag-bawas* was then carried out in Mindanao."

The anticipated election protest materialized, but it was abruptly ended by the death of FPJ. We may have to wait until the Last Judgment to know the truth. In the meantime, the cloud over the legitimacy of GMA's election will continue to haunt her and affect her capacity to govern.

Contrary to the opinion so warmly defended by a congressman from Mindanao, the impeachment complaint against GMA does not have, for an objective the intent of looking into whether Ms Arroyo won or lost. The congressman argued on the floor of Congress that the impeachment complaint should not be allowed because it is an attempt to resurrect the election protest already ended by the death of FPJ. The good congressman must know that an election protest can be filed only by a defeated candidate who claims to have won the election and who is seeking to take the place of the proclaimed winner. That is not the object of the impeachment complaint, whose object is merely to determine whether Ms Arroyo committed an impeachable offense which can justify her removal from office even if she indeed won the elections.

Whether or not this verification will take place in an impeachment trial is now seriously in doubt. The justice committee of the House of Representatives has decided that the three impeachment complaints should be trashed. If one-third of all the members of the House should uphold the decision of the justice committee, the nation would never know whether the allegations in the three complaints are true.

What are some of these allegations?

I start with the Lozano complaint—admittedly the weakest—and his subsequent supplemental complaints. Lozano alleges that: she has been silent about the wiretapped conversations and about the flight of Garcillano; the silence in both instances amounts to a betrayal of public trust; she lied when she confessed to a lapse in judgment when in fact she called several times—meaning, she made several lapses in judgment; she allowed her husband to go into "exile" as part of a cover-up. The Lozano complaint is suspected of being a "friendly complaint" designed to bar more serious complaints.

There was an attempt by the oppositionists to beef up the Lozano complaint by accusing her of impeding the administration of justice in various manners, and of concealing ownership of various pieces of property contrary to law. She is also accused of tax evasion, of acquiescing in the killing of political dissenters, of approving contracts manifestly disadvantageous to the Republic, of accepting bribe from *jueteng* operators, of undermining the independence of the Commission on Elections, and of knowingly allowing electoral fraud and misuse of government funds for electioneering purposes. Those are a big mouthful of charges.

The authors of the amended complaint sum up their allegations in the following words: "By her conduct, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, President of the Philippines, has undermined the integrity of her office, has brought disrepute on the presidency, has committed culpable violations of the Constitution, bribery and graft and corruption, and betrayed the public trust. By so flouting justice and the rule of law, she has committed an unforgivable outrage against the Filipino people to whom she must answer under the Constitution."

Will we ever hear evidence in support of these accusations? It seems that, in the words of veteran politician Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, these complaints are headed for the trash can. Let's just hope that after the verdict is out, no matter how unsatisfactory, the nation and its leaders will buckle down to work and move on to make this place a little better to live in.

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* * *

Comments to rubaiyat19@yahoo.com

Unity is the only choice

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

TO DIVIDE, and thus conquer: that is the objective of the administration. To unite, and thus be impregnable: that is the challenge of the times.

A broad coalition of forces is heeding that challenge. The coalition was symbolized by Cory Aquino and Susan Roces' coming together in prayer last Friday night. It has a name: "Bukluran para sa Katotohanan." Its statement of principles will be released today.

Does the broad coalition represent only opportunism, desperation and naked ambition? To reflect on this question is to miss the essential point. This isn't about those arrayed against the President. This is about the President. The President showed cunning when she dared anyone who is without sin to cast the first stone, as Jesus did to the people who were about to stone to death a woman accused of adultery.

What the President forgot is that she is not the Christ. She is in the position of the woman accused of adultery. The closest that we can come to a stand-in for Christ is not the president of a secular state, but the Catholic bishops who said, "if she is accused of adultery, let the charges be investigated." They did not say, "No, she did not commit adultery," or "No, we are morally convinced no adultery took place." They said: "There are too many disturbing details in the allegations, and so some sort of human justice must take its course."

What did the country get? No form of human justice. No truth commission, and quite possibly, no impeachment. What it got, instead, is the woman accused of adultery proclaiming that all are adulterers, which is beside the point.

You would think she never went to school. In school, you can break the rules many times, even cheat many times, but once you get caught, it is irrelevant if the entire class broke the rules with you, or cheated with you, because you're the one who has been caught. You're the one who gets punished. As it is for being caught cutting class, or copying notes, so it is for adultery and any conceivable sin—including the sins that are in a class of their own, because only presidents can commit them.

It boggles the mind that someone accused of committing adultery against the nation—for after all, a president, some say, is wedded to the country—should now be proclaiming that everyone is an adulterer, and even suggesting that adultery be decriminalized. The price of adultery is supposed to be an annulment or divorce. It is not supposed to result in a coronation, much less the transformation of the state into a world-class bordello, which is what the move to institute Charter change is meant to do. But to do so is to be unfair to whores; it reduces all politics to the level of prostitution, where it may be now, but where it ought not to remain. Furthermore, to do so makes certain that politics never rises above the level of whoring, without taking into account that the ones agitating for the prostitutes' rights are not the prostitutes themselves but the pimps. For even if you say that the people are a bunch of whores, what has driven them and keeps them in prostitution? The pimps. It is the pimps who make a whore out of the public for the pleasure of vested interests.

This whole political crisis is about change and a fundamental reality about our society (which thrives on open secrets, but which reserves a curious kind of fury for those caught doing what everyone knew they were doing all along). Is it unfair? The President thinks so; but it is very Filipino.

We all have dirty linen, and no one wants them exposed. But once exposed, they must be washed, and some sort of redemption must be achieved. The religious-minded can reflect on the fact that Jesus kept company with tax collectors and prostitutes, but he was the Christ and his objective was to show no one was beyond redemption. In a political crisis, such as the one taking place, the President has refused to acknowledge culpability and defied every attempt to clear her name. Her supporters say, it is because those prosecuting her are as dirty as she is, or that their objective is not to clear the President's name but to topple her from power.

They forget that it requires neither sainthood nor good character or intentions to be a prosecutor and pursue a prosecution. There are accusations of sanctimoniousness and false piety all around, to be sure. But who, in our government, is expected to be the exemplar of secular virtues, or at the very least, the kind of leadership unafraid to be challenged? Who, of our leaders, must be imbued with a firm and unflinching faith and confidence in the people? Only the President of the Philippines has that burden and responsibility.

The President not only confuses herself with Christ; she thinks she is living in biblical times. The President's supporters see red flags, the faces of disreputable politicians, the lack of teeth in the ranks of the protesting poor, the inability of the clergy to undertake a crusade, the defection of some of the President's own people, and see a motley group of the disgruntled. They should see, instead, a grave crisis in the legitimacy of the President and in the society she exemplifies. She was given so much, and did so little; she could have led so well, instead she leads so badly; she could have given the country hope, but she had so little faith in her people and herself that she has done, and is doing, things that have brought her to the level of the worst of our past leaders. She continues to fatally divide her people. As Oliver Cromwell said to the Long Parliament, "You have sat too long for any good you have been doing. Depart, I say, and let us have done with you. In the name of God, go!"

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Too many antics from our congressmen

LET us work for the enactment of a law, by virtue of which candidates who will be found guilty of cheating in elections will be disqualified. The law should also bar all protest cases on the election of a candidate who has been declared a winner.

This way, we can go on with our lives and focus on the economy. *Ito ang dapat pinagdedebatehan ngayon.* (This should be the subject of debates now.) Please stop the political circus and let's move on. For those aspiring for power, run in the next elections. The congressmen are wasting the taxpayers' money. *Tama na! Sobra na!* (Enough of your antics! We have too much of them!) Grow-up, Pinoy congressmen.

—MARIO ONGKIKO,
ongkiko@yahoo.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Danger is not due to lack of waste treatment facilities

THE NEWS story on the tons of infectious health care waste from Metro Manila being illegally dumped into rivers and open dumps ("Tons of hazardous waste enter rivers, dumps daily," PDI, 8/29/05) is, to say the least, greatly disturbing. But even more disturbing is the suggestion that this illegal dumping of health care waste is happening because "they cannot be accommodated in the country's waste treatment plants." It is disturbing because it is downright false.

The alternative non-burn waste treatment plants that accept health care waste from Metro Manila are currently operating below their full capacity; they are all willing to accept more waste to treat and are eagerly looking for more hospitals to sign up as clients. In fact, during a recent hearing in the Senate on health care waste, an executive from one waste treatment company expressed her apprehension that her business may go under for lack of interested hospitals. The illegal dumping of waste from Metro Manila hospitals cannot, therefore, be plausibly explained by lack of waste treatment facilities. If it is true that hospitals are illegally dumping 11 tons of untreated waste per day, it can only be because they are willingly ignoring available waste treatment facilities—and apparently getting away with it.

I hope that the joint administrative order of the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on health care waste will finally resolve the problem, and that the hospitals' waste habits will henceforth be closely monitored and supervised.

Finally, some factual corrections: Cavite is home to two alternative non-burn waste facilities for health care waste: these are the autoclave and the hydroclave, an incinerator (also called thermal oxidizer/pyrolysis) posing as an alternative technology that is clearly violating the Clean Air Act. Also, the Visayas region has one facility in Cebu, not zero.

Unfortunately, the autoclave system in Cebu, where the second largest metropolitan area in the country is, is also suffering from lack of interested hospitals. Its treatment potential capacity is also grossly underutilized. One wonders exactly how Cebu hospitals are managing their own infectious waste. If, like in Metro Manila, health care waste in Cebu is also being illegally dumped untreated, one thing is sure: it is not for lack of a waste treatment facility.

—MERCI FERRER,
coordinator,
Health Care Without Harm,
Unit 320 Eagle Court Condominium,
26 Matalino St.,
Central District, Quezon City

Urgent resolution of Legarda-De Castro case needed

WE would like to commend Neal H. Cruz for his column suggesting that the electoral protest of former Sen. Loren Legarda against Noli de Castro be expedited and used as a means to determine who really won in the presidential and vice presidential contests in 2004. (PDI, 8/1/05)

Although not a lawyer, Cruz took pains to research on Supreme Court decisions concerning electoral protests. Most relevant to the present situation is his quotation from the case De Mesa vs Mencias, which reads as follows: "... [B]road perspectives of public policy impose upon courts the imperative duty to ascertain, by all means within their command, who is the real candidate elected, in as expeditious a manner as possible, without being fettered by technicalities and procedural barriers to the end that the will of the people may not be frustrated."

The above citation applies squarely to the protest of Legarda. However, there is an additional dimension of urgency to the case. There is currently a mounting cry for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo. Hence, the question of succession becomes imperative. If the question of legitimacy bugs Ms Arroyo, the same thing can happen to De Castro. The country cannot afford to have two presidents in succession, whose legitimacy is seriously challenged. Hence, there is no alternative to a quick resolution of the Legarda protest.

—REYNALDO SALDOVAL,
reynaldosaldoval@yahoo.com

Social and humanistic individuals

THE ANG Katipunan ng mga Samahang Maharlika (Ang KaSaMa), a confederation of sociocultural associations in the Philippines, is happy and proud to have joined Fr. Robert Reyes' campaign for genuine change in the country.

We believe that spiritual practices such as prayer, reflection and meditation, when pursued with sincerity and dedication, will help transform people from social beings to social and humanistic individuals.

This individual transformation is the core of our society's spirit. Without individual transformation from materialism to humanism, and without change from self-orientation to collective and spiritual orientation, our society will continue to be rocked by corruption, infighting and moral degradation.

We hope that more moralists will respond to Father Reyes' campaign. What we need is not only change in social leadership and government form. What our country needs is more basic and long-lasting. We need social change that starts from individual transformation. Without individual transformation, there can be no meaningful social change.

—DEO P. PALMA,
national coordinator,
Ang Katipunan ng mga Samahang Maharlika (Ang KaSaMa), 11 Union Village, Barangay Culiat, Tandang Sora, QC

Not a gambling governor

I AM an avid reader of the INQUIRER because I really admire the publication for its credibility. However, as I was reading its Aug. 20 issue, I was surprised to find my name in Ramon Tulfo's column titled "Cavite's casino habitues."

In the article, he accused me of being a gambling addict, a frequent player at the Casino Filipino-Heritage where I often lose a large amount of money. He insinuated that because of my alleged frequent "visits" to the casino, I may be guilty of graft and corruption as charged in the case filed against me by Vice Gov. Jonvic Remulla.

I would like to correct his statements. I have never played in Casino Filipino-Heritage or in any casino. So I could not have lost millions of pesos, a false allegation on the basis of which he concludes I am a corrupt government official.

—AYONG S. MALIKSI,
governor, Trece Martires City

Attached was a letter from the senior branch manager of Casino Filipino-Heritage, Jose Tulio, certifying that Governor Maliksi never gambled in their establishment. It was published in Ramon Tulfo's column last Aug. 30.—Ed.

Holiday scheme

DISMAL planning has been the scourge of our country. We cannot even properly calendar our national holidays. Special holidays seem to be selected arbitrarily and, yes, even politically motivated. We certainly are unable to follow the calendar. Calendars abound in the world and they have been used for planning purposes.

Is there no one in our government who is tasked to plan holidays? There are only 365 days in a year, and we don't have one person to review holidays and advise the government when to have no classes/work?

Sudden declarations of holidays cause too much problems. Has anybody thought of the effect of unsupervised schoolchildren when their parents are working? In my work, if classes are canceled due to snow or rain, the parents also get to spend a holiday.

If the government intends to declare a holiday, at least it should give families enough time to plan so that they can make the most of it.

The Aug. 29 holiday was a holiday debacle which could have been avoided. Please, somebody, put some thought into the holiday schemes. It should not be difficult.

—ROBERTO VICENCIO,
jojo@vicencio.net

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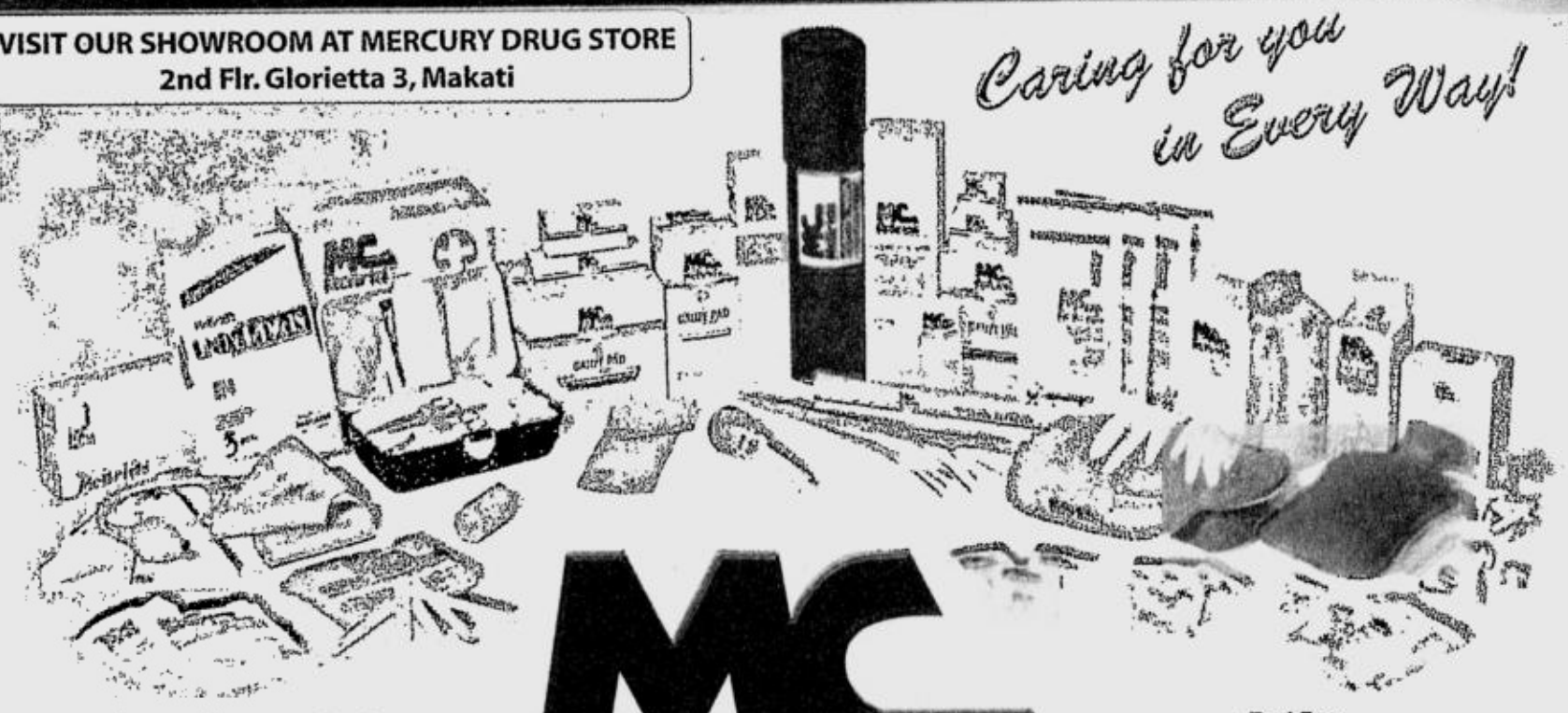

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Militant pastor shot in Palawan dies

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—A human rights pastor who was shot on Aug. 20 by motorcycle-riding men died at 10:15 a.m. yesterday at the Philippine Lung Center in Quezon City.

Raul Y. Domingo, 43, married with five children, was shot two weeks ago, moments after he alighted from a jeepney near his house in Barangay San Jose in this city.

The pastor of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines was the secretary general of the human rights group Karapatan in Palawan.

He was brought to Manila on Aug. 24 to have his spinal column checked.

"The doctors said his internal organs were poisoned because his liver could not function properly and break down acids in his body," said Arman Albarillo, spokesperson of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-Southern Tagalog.

In a text message, he said the pastor's liver was severely damaged by two bullet wounds.

The Kapatirang Simbahan para sa Bayan and the Promotion of Church People's Response mourned Domingo's death. "Reverend Domingo was a dedicated pastor of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines," they said in an e-mailed statement.

The UCCP condemned the killing and asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to investigate the assassination.

In a statement faxed to the INQUIRER, the UCCP said Domingo was a "vocal advocate for people living in poverty and exploited. He exposed human rights abuses committed by the military and opposed mining in Palawan. Any of these activities are likely to be the reasons to assassinate him."

Two days after Domingo was shot, a whistle-blower identified only as Mike, who claimed to be a former member of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit, told radio station dyPR that the military could be behind the attempt to kill the pastor.

He said he was a Cafgu member in 2000 and 2001 and that he knew the motorcycle used by the attackers because he used to drive it when he was still in active service.

He said that as part of a "test mission," he was ordered to kill Domingo between 2000 and 2001, but he did not do it because "they were just being fooled around."

He added that the pastor was in the military's Order of Battle, along with other members of cause-oriented groups in Palawan.

Wescom chief Vice Adm. Ruben Domingo (no relations with the victim) denied the whistle-blower's allegations.

"We don't liquidate people for a test mission. That is the work of the CPP (Communist Party of the Philippines)-NPA," Domingo added.

He said he was not yet with the Wescom when Mike was allegedly ordered to kill the pastor.

Jofelle Tesorio, with a report from Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Sorsogon cop chief sacked due to rising criminality

SORSOGON CITY—The series of unsolved robbery and murder cases here cost the city chief of police his post when he was abruptly relieved effective Sept. 3.

Supt. Saadra Gani was relieved on orders of provincial police director Senior Supt. Arnold Revilla. He was replaced by Supt. Joel Regondola.

Revilla's order was prompted by criticisms from various sectors about the seeming breakdown of peace and order in the city.

Revilla said the incidents had become alarming and needed to be acted upon immediately.

In August alone, at least three murder cases occurred and a string of robbery cases remained unsolved.

The failure of the police to stop the robberies prompted local homeowners' associations to conduct patrols themselves. Even housewives joined the roving patrols.

Robberies occur even in daytime. Several houses have lost appliances.

Some businessmen launched a signature campaign calling on the city police to act immediately to stop the robberies and produce results.

The business sector decried the alleged lack of action and the delayed response of police personnel on their complaints.

One businesswoman, who reported a robbery, said she was told by the police to look for the suspects herself and to call them up once she saw them.

Revilla ordered Regondola to look into the complaints and review the duty schedules of the city police force and the patrol system they were implementing.

A police official, who requested not to be named, said one of the main causes of the failure of the police to conduct regular patrols was the low supply of gasoline.

It was learned that each of the four substations of the city police is given only 15 liters of gasoline per week.

Gov. Raul Lee had earlier approved the release of P250,000 for the purchase of gasoline. Mayor Sally Lee said her administration was providing gasoline supply regularly to the police force to augment its allocation from the provincial command.

Aside from the acute gasoline supply, the city police office lacks personnel. It only has 62 officers and noncommissioned officers covering the city's 64 barangays.

Revilla said he would look into the possibility of beefing up the police force so that it could cope with the demands of maintaining peace and order. *Bobby Q. Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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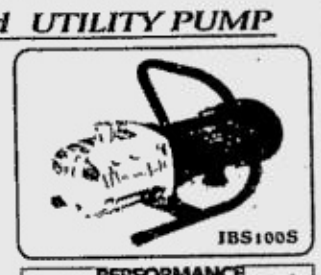

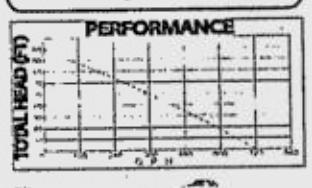

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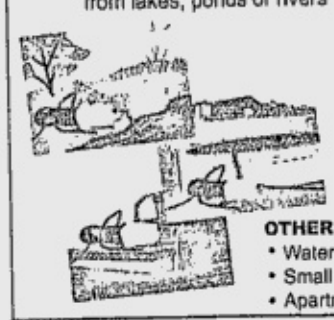

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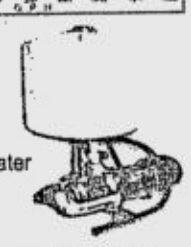

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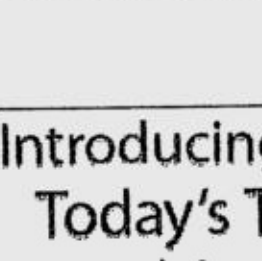

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SINGLE DOOR REFRIGERATOR SJ-191T	6.4 cu.ft. / Table Top / Cold Air Duct Derivation	1,440	1,105
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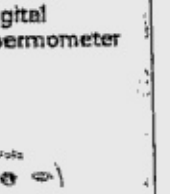
TELEVISION 20V-L70M	Conventional CTV / Auto Demo	1,660	947
21V-FP75M	Flat / Mono / Energy Saver / Auto Demo	1,454	1,181



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OPEN ON SUNDAY

Permit for coal plant opposed

MABALACAT, Pampanga—Lighting firecrackers, banging pots and pans, and simultaneously turning on their TV and radio sets, Mt. Pinatubo settlers here on Friday created all sorts of noise to oppose the extension of a permit granted to a paper firm's coal-fired power plant.

Some 2,000 residents at the Madapdap Resettlement in Barangay Bundagul timed the noise barrage on the third year of issuance of an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) to Asia Pacific Energy Corp. (Apec), located a kilometer north of their community.

Apec is a subsidiary of Trust International Paper Corp. (Tipco), one of Southeast Asia's biggest paper manufacturers. Its ECC was issued by then Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez on Sept. 3, 2002.

Willie Chua, Tipco vice president, said his company and Apec had not sought an extension of the ECC.

"It's not true," he said of the lapse in the ECC schedule.

The ECC, Chua said, gave no date for the project's completion.

The plant is 92-percent completed, he said, adding that its operators, Foster Wheeler Energia and Formosa Heavy Industries, hope to begin commissioning the facility by the fourth quarter this year. Another 50-megawatt plant has yet to be built.

More than 5,000 of the nearly 8,000 families at Madapdap came from Bacolor, which was buried in lahar in 1995.

The settlers are opposing the operation of Apec's 50-megawatt plant's due to fears of pollution.

"We strongly reject an extension [of the ECC]," Councilor Melchor Alfonso of Bacolor town said during the program held after the protest motorcade.

The residents were hoping that the ECC schedule's supposed lapse would stop the operation of plant, said Javier Taruc, barangay chair of Madapdap and head of the coalition that has opposed the project for the past five years.

The ECC has a provision stating that the permit is "considered automatically revoked if the project's construction and operation does not commence within three years from the date of ECC issuance or suspension/stoppage of operations extends to five years."

The environmental impact assessment prepared by the consulting firm Woodward-Clyde scheduled the start of commercial operation in May 2002.

Javier said that although the plant had not been formally operating, the firm had been conducting periodic dry-run operations between 11 p.m. and 2 a.m.

Calling the Madapdap settlers the "last line of defense" in protecting the people's health, Board Member Nilo Caballa urged the residents to prepare for more protests.

The Mabalacat government and most of its barangay officials have already approved the project.

Some 3,000 people have signed a petition urging the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to stop the project, according to lawyer Generosa Mislang of the environmental group Tanggol Kalikasan.

Health hazards are among those that need to be addressed, said Bacolor Mayor Romeo Dungca. He asked the DENR and the Department of Health to "thoroughly review" the project.

Chua said Tipco and Apec were not backing out, saying the power plants would make them less reliant on the National Power Corp. and give Tipco an edge over foreign and local competitors whose operations are subsidized by their respective governments.

"We've been losing money because of the high cost of electricity. Yet, we've been delivering because we have long-term commitments to provide paper, especially in the newspaper industry," Chua said.

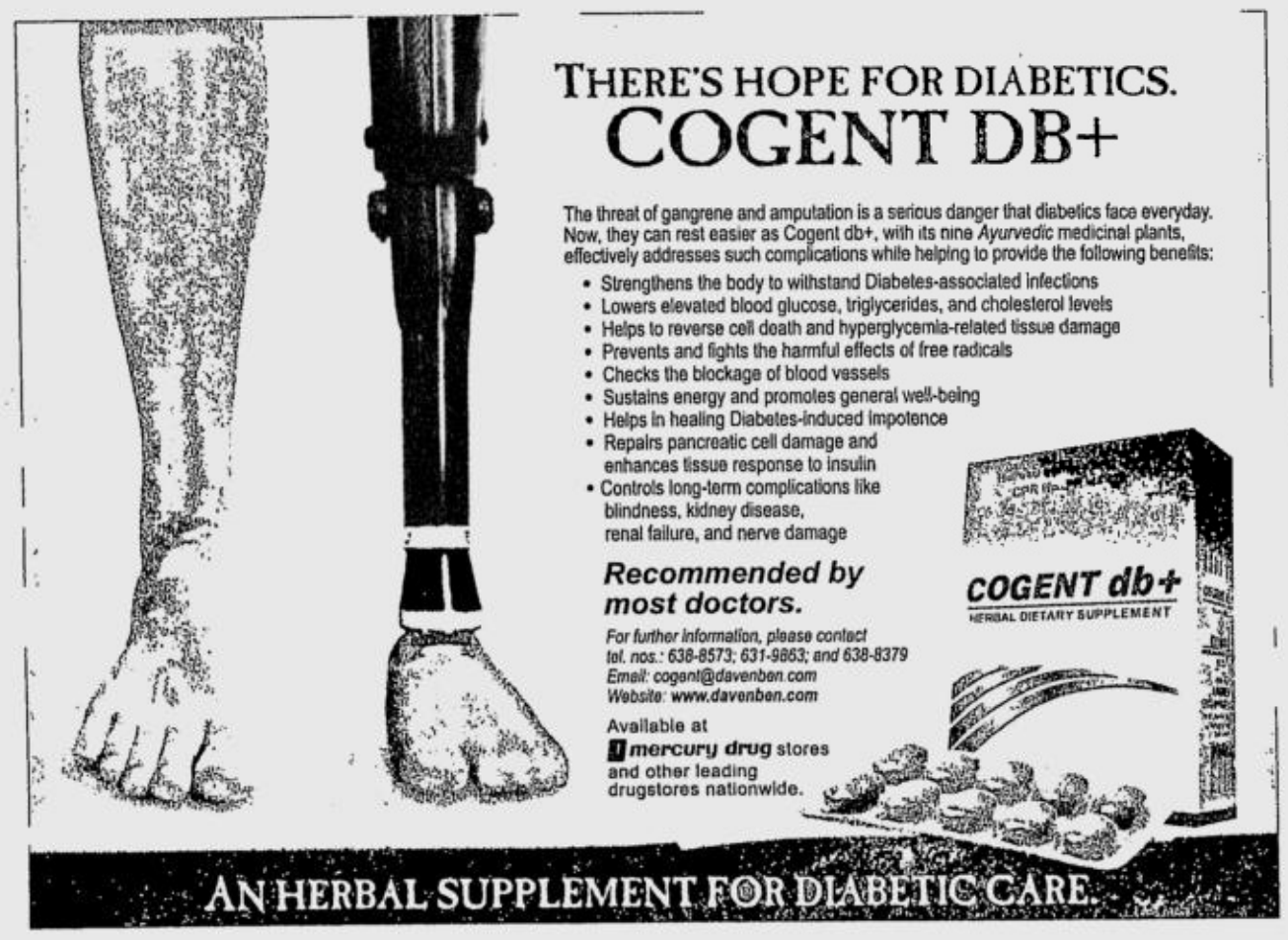
On pollution, he said it was "not in our best interest to cut corners here."

"We're doing things right, putting in all the pollution-control equipment because we're staying at Mabalacat," he said.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

OLD FIREPOWER
A member of the 66th Infantry shows off his decommissioned 30-cal. machine gun, during the 60th celebration of the end of World War II in the Philippines in Baguio City.



Dengue cases still rising in Cebu

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Dengue fever cases have continued to increase in Cebu, with four more deaths recorded over the last four days until Friday.

The Department of Health in Central Visayas said the latest fatalities brought to 57 the total number of persons who have died of dengue fever in Cebu City and province since January.

Records from the Regional Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (Resu) of the DOH regional office showed that from Jan. 1 to Aug. 27, the number of deaths has reached 53 (25 in Cebu City and 28 in other parts of the province).

The city and province recorded a total of 1,637 dengue cases over the same period. Cebu is followed by Negros Oriental (383 cases with 4 deaths) and Bohol (186 cases and 9 deaths).

Although the record for Siquijor was not available, the cases there were few, according to DOH regional epidemiology nurse Rennan Cimafranca.

The latest fatality in Cebu was Ritchel Lebrero, 5, of Barangay Malbago, Daanbantayan, who died at 6 a.m. on Friday at the Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center (VSMMC).

Hospital records showed that Lebrero was confined at 12:52 a.m. on Saturday and died about five hours later.

On Thursday, Jenevie Boquia, 8, of Ronda town, died at the VSMMC at 4:55 p.m. A 6-year-old girl from Mandaue City died there a day earlier, and a year-old girl from Toledo City on Tuesday.

Cimafranca said the latest cases died due to dengue shock syndrome, characterized by a drastic drop in blood pressure and heartbeats.

The Resu report showed that Cebu City had the most number of dengue cases at 639 with 25 deaths, followed by the cities of Mandaue (107 cases with 2 deaths), Talisay (95 cases with two deaths), Danao (84 cases), Toledo (75 cases with 2 deaths) and Lapu-lapu (67 cases).

Among the towns, Minglanilla has the most number of cases at 73. Others had fewer than 20 cases but some had recorded fatalities, like Asturias, 17 cases with four deaths, and Carcar, 13 cases with two deaths.

ROUNDUP

3 treasure hunters die

NAGUILIAN, Isabela—Three treasure hunters died from suffocation inside a tunnel in Barangay Rang-ayan here on Thursday. Senior Supt. Percival Barba, Isabela police director, identified the victims as Arnold Castillo of Cagayan, Roger Adalem and Excel Kausapin, both of Makati City. Their companion, Ador Pascua, of Peñablanca, Cagayan, was taken to a hospital in Cauayan City. Barba said Castillo and Pascua were digging inside a six-meter deep and six-meter wide tunnel when they were suffocated by fumes from a generator set they were using to run a pump to drain the tunnel. Adalem and Kausapin died while rescuing their companions.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

3 rebel suspects slain

CAMP MELCHOR DE LA CRUZ, Isabela—Three suspected New People's Army rebels were killed in a clash with government soldiers in Barangay Dalena in Benito Soliven town on Friday, military officials said. Maj. Victor Tanggawohn, spokesperson of the Army's 5th Infantry Division, identified one of the fatalities as Adiong Dancel alias Ka Yankee. He said Dancel and the other fatalities belonged to the Platoon Dos-Central Front of the Cagayan Valley Regional Party Committee. Tanggawohn said the encounter lasted 45 minutes and the government did not suffer any casualty.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

2 rebels captured

LEGAZPI CITY—Two New People's Army rebels were captured by soldiers of the 2nd Infantry Battalion after a 5-minute encounter early yesterday at Barangay Bequin in Bulan, Sorsogon. Col. Serafin Raymundo, spokesperson of the 9th Infantry Division based in Pili, Camarines Sur, identified those arrested as Noli Gegantoca, alias Lino, and Juliet Gulimlim. The soldiers recovered two M-16 rifles with four magazines, two rifle grenades, one hand grenade and backpacks containing documents.

Michael Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Soldier gunned down

SAN ILDEFONSO, Bulacan—An Army soldier was gunned down by suspected New People's Army rebels along the national highway in Barangay Maasim here on Friday. Reports identified the slain soldier as Sgt. Juanito Sobredo of the Army's 56th Infantry Battalion based in San Miguel town. Sobredo, three other soldiers and two militiamen were traveling aboard separate motorcycles when they were ambushed by at least 10 NPA rebels along the Maasim Bridge at 2:45 p.m. Police reports said a 5-minute gunfight ensued between Sobredo's group and the rebels. At least three guerrillas were reportedly wounded.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

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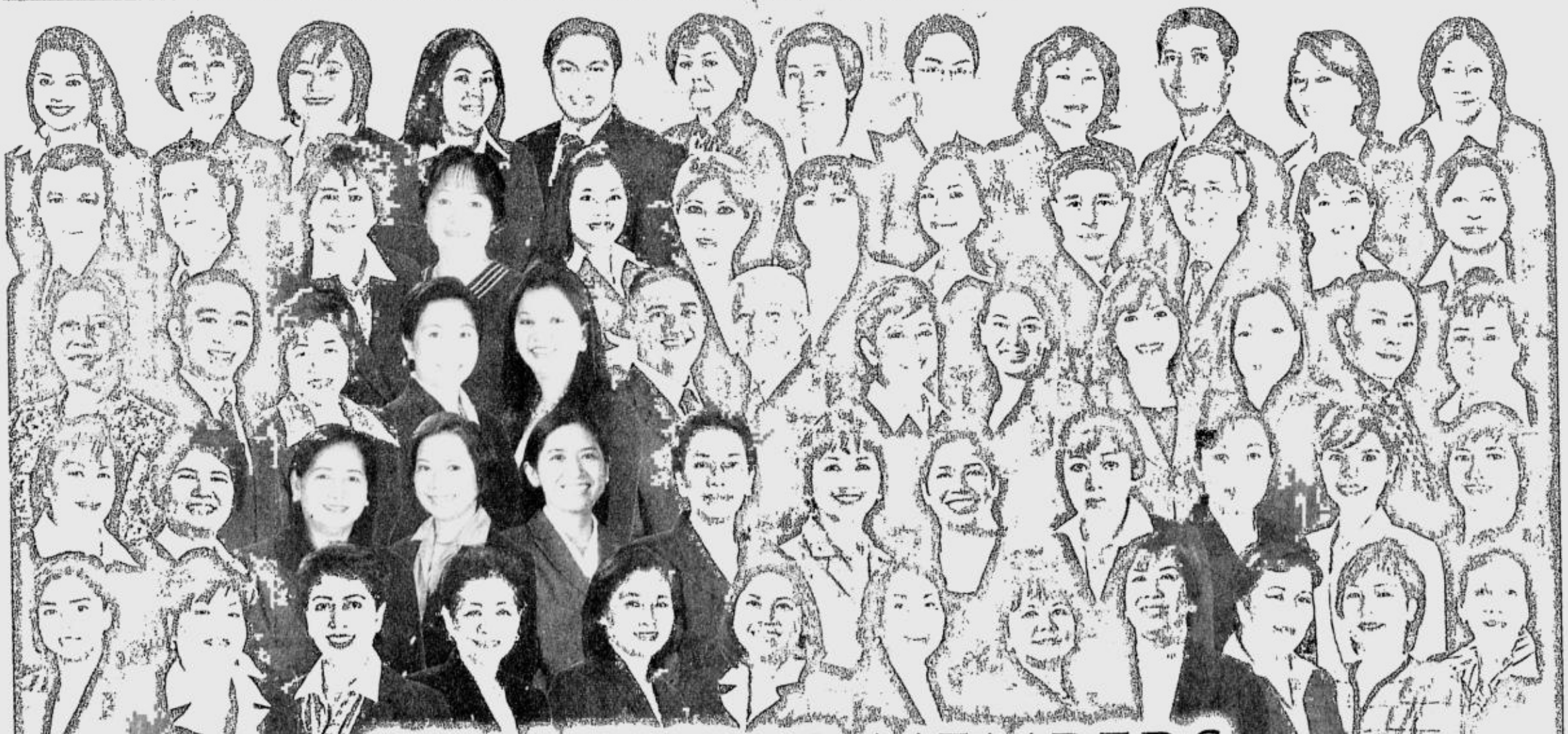

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GMA confident she won't be impeached

From page A1

over allegations of electoral fraud and graft.

The opposition needs one-third of the 236-member House to overturn the committee report, but it remains short of the 79 signatures required to keep the impeachment process alive and send Ms Arroyo to a trial in the Senate that could oust her.

Analysts say Ms Arroyo's solid majority in Congress should ensure her win in Monday's vote, allowing her to head off on diplomatic missions to Saudi Arabia and the United States this month without the cloud of impeachment hanging over her.

Growth despite turmoil

Ms Arroyo said Filipinos generally had not allowed themselves to be distracted by the political crisis that has been raging in the country for close to three months now.

"The steady growth of our economy at 5 percent despite the political turmoil shows that the Filipino people are keenly focused on enterprise and hard work, and not catering to overtures of national division and distraction," she said.

The President also pointed to "record-breaking revenues for August."

"This development shows the maturity of our citizens in bearing the burden of nation-building and the growing effectiveness of our revenue service in obtaining results from every pound of effort," Ms Arroyo said.

She urged the Bureau of Internal Revenue under its new commissioner to continue with its efforts at effective tax collection.

The President likewise assured the people that the Supreme Court's upholding of the constitutionality of the expanded valued-added tax law, designed to avoid a fiscal crisis, would "bolster the momentum of reforms and services that are essential to investments and jobs."

She promised that with the implementation of the new VAT law, the government would ensure that necessary measures would be in place to protect "the poorest of the poor" from high prices.

Foes unlikely to give up

The opposition is unlikely to give up its bid to unseat Ms Arroyo even if it loses Monday's vote. It is barred by law from filing a new impeachment complaint against her for one year.

Benito Lim, professor of political science at Ateneo de Manila University, said the opposition could use other legal means, such as going to the Supreme Court to contest the committee's rejection of the stronger impeachment complaints.

"She may well win this round, but then there are the next few rounds," he said. "It does not mean that she is out of the woods yet."

Protests against Ms Arroyo in recent months have been relatively small, but it remains to be seen whether opposition claims that the impeachment process was unfair have sparked broader anger.

"It's ripe again for more massive street action than before," said Earl Parreno of the Institute for Political and Electoral Reforms.

"She will now foreclose the avenue of redress in the form of Congress. So the other forum left for her is in her hands ... that is to resign. But that is apparently too much to expect of her," Pimentel said.

No recourse but protests

"And so the people will have no recourse but to prod her by means of demonstrations, strikes, mass actions to get her out of Malacañang," Pimentel said.

He recalled that these things happened during the impeachment trial of Estrada.

The current political storm began more than two months ago when the opposition produced recordings it said were of Ms Arroyo talking to a poll official after last year's election.

Ms Arroyo, who has denied any wrongdoing, appeared to be losing her presidency in early July after desertions by key allies, but has since used her formidable political machinery to fight back.

The stance of the Roman Catholic Church, a powerful force in the predominantly Catholic country of 85 million, had previously been crucial in determining the outcome of political crises.

A Church spokesperson said there did not appear to be too much prospect of intervention this time, particularly after the death in June of Jaime Cardinal Sin, the driving force behind two "people power" revolts that ousted presidents in 1986 and 2001.

"Even among bishops there has not been one voice," said Peachy Yamsuan.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines rejected calls in July for Ms Arroyo to step down, but added that she should not simply dismiss such calls.

Sen. Richard Gordon said that he did not think massive protests would take place.

"They should be happening now. But I don't see any signs, perhaps because the people want their leaders to find out ways to improve their lives instead," he said.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan warned that an outright dismissal of the impeachment complaint this week would not help the administration's efforts at regaining the public's trust.

More notoriety

"In fact, in dismissing the complaint outright, the administration may even gain more notoriety. In effect, the political stalemate remains. The dismissal doesn't resolve the crisis, it only gives the administration some breathing space before the next scandal or controversy is raised," Pangilinan said in a text message.

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson and independent Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. remained hopeful that proimpeachment lawmakers would be able to muster the 79 votes needed to transmit the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate for trial.

Echoing members of the House minority, Lacson remained optimistic that the proimpeachment lawmakers would gather enough votes to send the complaint to the Senate.

"Losing the vote in the House is not a certainty. The impeachment group is surprisingly optimistic about the voting for the adoption or rejection of the committee on justice report in the plenary. It is a hopeful rather than a wishful 79," he said.

Magsaysay said the public would continue to trust in the impeachment process if the lawmakers muster the 79 votes and, hence, pave the way for an impeachment trial.

"We must not lose sight of the goal of impeachment as a due process to convict or acquit [officials]. That is almost gone unless in the plenary this week the 79 lawmakers are present to sign and send it to the Senate," he said.

When asked if the proimpeachment lawmakers' cause had been lost, he said: "Not quite, but nearly." *With a report from Reuters*

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₱45-M pork offered to undecided ...

From page A1

Pimentel said Malacañang's offer to congressmen came in the form of the Countrywide Development Fund (CDF), the official term for the pork barrel.

Going rate

"The going rate is P45 million, but it's not outright cash. It comes in the form of fund releases for the congressmen's projects," he said in an interview, quoting at least three lawmakers who had accepted the offer. He did not name them.

"It's a big bonanza to the House representatives who have been ignored all these years by Malacañang. And it comes with a bonus—appointment of their relatives and protégés to key government positions," he added.

The senator's claims came on the heels of allegations that administration congressmen were doing the rounds of colleagues' homes and offering cash to convince them to snub this week's sessions and ensure Ms Arroyo's survival.

Pimentel said Ms Arroyo herself had been calling congressmen who were still weighing their options.

"She's talking to those who she thinks will sign the complaint," he said, referring to the complaint lodged by several lawmakers to amend the first one filed by lawyer Oliver Lozano, which was perceived to be defective.

By trying to buy off lawmakers, the President risked being charged with another impeachable offense, Pimentel said.

Obstruction of justice

"She's using government money to stop a legal procedure from being completed. At the least, she could be charged for obstruction of justice and for a possible charge of bribery," he said.

Pimentel said the House lawmakers, whom he had talked to, had justified their decision to accept the offer.

"The acceptance was made on the basis of the needs of their constituents. How do you argue against that? How do you put a price on patriotism?" he said.

The proimpeachment camp yesterday admitted that it had yet to gather the 79 votes needed against Ms Arroyo. Its spokesperson, Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano, said that up to late last night, the group was still talking to undecided colleagues.

The opposition earlier said it had 73 supporters, but Cayetano said eight to 12 of them wanted to formalize their signatures only when the proimpeachment camp got the 79 votes.

Cayetano said 10 to 18 administration lawmakers had initially intended to vote against impeachment but changed their minds after the committee railroaded the killing of the complaints. He said he remained optimistic his camp would get the 79 votes.

Opposition warned

In a statement, House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles and Deputy Majority Leader Antonio Cerilles warned the opposition against disrupting the impeachment proceedings in the plenary with publicity stunts and inflammatory statements.

"Please do not destroy the House as an institution if you fail to get 79 votes," Nograles said.

"The opposition's statements of administration offers of cash and travel to House members so as not to impeach the President are simply base foul play and the height of arrogance, posturing as if they are the anointed of God when their intention is nothing more than a political power grab," he said.

The National Capital Region Police Office goes on full alert today for an expected massive protests.

"We have the situation under control," said Director Vidal Querol. He said protesters would not be allowed within 50 meters of the Batasan gate.

The advocacy group TXTPower over the weekend posted on its website the cell phone numbers of 47 reportedly undecided congressmen. It called on millions of mobile phone users to swamp these congressmen's phones with SMS messages calling on them to support Ms Arroyo's impeachment. *With reports from Edson C. Tandoc Jr., Luige A. del Puerto and Norman Bordadora*

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President's foes engaging in trial by publicity

From page A1

undermine the impeachment process, which involves a more rigorous method of ascertaining the veracity of evidence and the "truth" than the campaign to sway public opinion.

This campaign represents an attempt by proimpeachment militants to hijack the impeachment process from the institutional forum of an impeachment trial.

The militants have already made moral judgments on election cheating based on the controversial "Hello Garci" tapes—judgments that would render superfluous the formal impeachment process.

The tapes refer to wiretapped conversations in which the President allegedly directed former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano to rig the 2004 presidential election.

The militants have concluded that they have established the "truth" about the tapes and the allegations. But in the history of mankind's quest for truth, no one has a franchise on truth. In this particular crisis, truth is better served in a forum (i.e., impeachment) where the credibility of evidence is ascertained by a rigorous process of evaluation.

Aborting process

This is the most important reason the proponents of impeachment must get the mandatory votes to send a complaint to the Senate, and why it is in the best interest of the administration that the impeachment process is not aborted in the House.

Aborting the process could only provide ammunition to those pushing their case against the President into the forum of public opinion where the administration is accused of rigging not only the impeachment process but also last year's presidential election.

A week ago, the militants for "truth" tried to preempt the impeachment process with actions apparently intended to influence public opinion ahead of a possible impeachment trial.

On Aug. 31, Corazon Soliman, one of the 10 Cabinet officials and agency heads who resigned on July 8 and demanded that Ms Arroyo do the same, told the press that she overheard the President telling political adviser Gabriel Claudio to call a member of the House to endorse right away an impeachment complaint filed by lawyer Oliver Lozano on June 27.

Soliman said the President had wanted the complaint endorsed because it was a weak one.

The disclosure, which had nothing to do with the merits of Lozano's allegation of presidential wrongdoing, was timed when the justice committee was in the midst of a hearing to decide whether it would endorse the complaint to the plenary.

Insider information

Soliman and her group had said they would be ready to give evidence of presidential wrongdoing, consisting of insider information obtained in the course of confidential relationship as Cabinet members, at an impeachment trial.

The disclosure appears to have been made to inflame public opinion against the President in the run-up to a possible trial. It was not relevant to the allegations cited in the complaint.

The real purpose of the disclosure was not in aid of impeachment, a process she and her group said they were supporting.

In a meeting with INQUIRER editors and reporters on Thursday night, Soliman and some of her cohorts in the Gang of 10 said the public wanted her group "to tell the truth to trigger popular outrage enough to spark another people power revolt."

"We need to do it in the proper forum to achieve the desired effect," Soliman said. "We want it to reach a resolution."

It was not clear what she meant by "proper forum." In her other statements, she was apparently not thinking of the impeachment forum, although she and some of her colleagues had been reported to have said they would "reveal all, if possible, before an impeachment court, under oath and under full media coverage."

Based on her statements, Soliman and her colleagues are more interested in waging their campaign to "tell all the truth" in the arena of public opinion to incite a street insurrection. In that arena, truth cannot be ascertained through a methodical assessment of evidence.

In the streets, the truth is not determined by credibility of evidence as it is obliterated by hysteria fanned by inflamed public opinion. But the big question remains. Is the public ready to give up on impeachment to heed the calls for insurrection by self-righteous demagogues?

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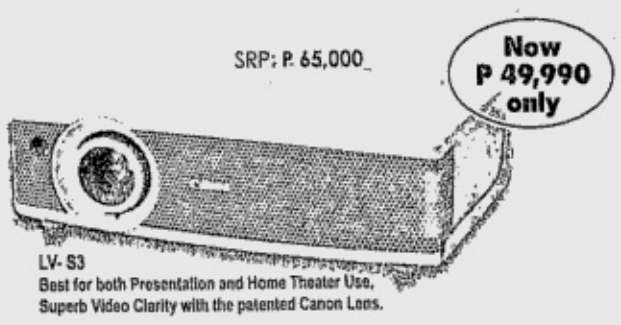

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19 September (AM)	Current Issues in the Practice of Law (*Legal Ethics*)	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	Justice Hilarion L. Aquino *Court of Appeals (Ret.)*
(PM)	Civil, Criminal and Administrative Liabilities of Lawyers (*Legal Ethics*)	Three (3) (1:00-4:00)	Justice Jose L. Sabio, Jr. *Court of Appeals*
20 September (AM)	Updates in Administrative Law and Procedure (*Procedural Law*)	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	Prof. Salvador T. Carlota *U.P. College of Law*
(PM)	Pre Trial and Trial Skills (*Pre-Trial Skills*)	Four (4) (1:00-5:00)	Justice Lucas P. Bersamin *Court of Appeals*
21 September (AM)	Salient Features of Agrarian Reform Laws (*MCLE Prescribed*)	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	Atty. Hector D. Soliman *Former USEC, DAR*
(PM)	a) GATT and GATS (*International Law*) b) Mediation Proceedings and the Role of Lawyers (*ADR*)	a) Two (2) (1:00-3:00) b) Three (3) (3:15-6:15)	a) Prof. Harry L. Roque *U.P. College of Law* b) Chairman Alfredo F. Tadiar *ADR Dept., PHILJA*
22 September (AM)	Update in Criminal Procedure (*Procedural Law*)	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	Pros. Gregorio A. Arizala *Provincial Prosecutor, Rizal*
(PM)	a) ADR Applications in Commercial Disputes (*ADR*) b) Modes of Discovery (*Procedural Law*)	a)Two(2) (1:00-3:00) b)Three (3) (3:15-6:15)	Dean Custodio O. Parlade *PHPE Law Offices* Justice Oscar M. Herrera (Ret.) *Court of Appeals*
23 September (AM)	Developments in Family Law (*MCLE Prescribed*)	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	Judge Nimfa Cuesta Vilches *Regional Trial Court, Manila*
(PM)	Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy (*Legal Writing*)	Four (4) (1:00-5:00)	Hon. Zenaida N. Elepano *Senior DCA, Supreme Court*

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INQUIRER

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Gov't covered up ...

From page A1

of the country.

Garcillano, a former election commissioner, left the country last month at the height of the political crisis triggered by an election fraud scandal.

Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla said a "top-level" diplomatic source had told him that Singapore had already provided the Department of Foreign Affairs with details of Garcillano's secret flight to the city-state on July 14 but that the DFA continued to give his office "the runaround."

He said that among the flight details supplied by the Singaporean government—and which the INQUIRER reported last month—was that Garcillano had flown to Singapore on Subic Air RP-C1426 and he took off for the United Kingdom on a commercial flight the following day.

Garcillano's final destination was not known.

"This is a very big coverup," said Remulla, lead chair of the House investigation into the so-called "Gloriagate" tapes dealing with President Macapagal-Arroyo's supposed attempt to tamper with the results of the 2004 presidential election.

Remulla, speaking at a press conference and on radio, called for the resignation of Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez and Air Transportation Office chief Nilo Jatico.

No report, says DFA

He urged the government to revoke the permit of Subic Air to operate, and "suspend or revoke" the licenses of the pilots allegedly involved.

DFA spokesperson Gilberto Asuque told the INQUIRER the department "has not yet received the official report of the Philippine Embassy in Singapore on how Mr. Garcillano arrived in Singapore."

Fernandez could not be reached for comment despite calls to him, while Jatico said the ATO had nothing to do with Garcilllano's flight but would investigate Subic Air and its pilot. Subic Air was also not available for comment.

Remulla, chair of the House public information committee, accused the administration of orchestrating the supposed coverup.

Hiding the truth?

He said that when House officials on Wednesday inquired with the DFA about the official communication from the Singaporean government, they were just given the "runaround."

"They are really hiding the truth," he told reporters.

Remulla, in a statement, said the information he obtained about Garcillano was given to him by "friends in the foreign service." He refused to name his sources.

The House of Representatives last month issued an arrest warrant for Garcillano after he refused to show up at the investigation into the Gloriagate tapes.

Truth in the recordings

"This coverup of Garcillano's departure only further solidifies the perception that that there is truth to the conversations in the 'Hello Garci' recordings," he said.

Remulla said that based on the information he received from his diplomatic sources, Garcillano flew to Singapore on the same plane and flight which he said the ATO and the BI had repeatedly claimed did "not contain any record of any passenger except for its crew."

He said the plane was flown by Capt. Arthur Santos and Capt. Wilfredo Bautista with flight engineer Benito Hafalia and it was flown to Singapore assertedly for maintenance purposes.

Subic Air is reportedly owned by a close friend of the President, Remulla added.

No passengers

"How was Garcillano able to connive with the ATO, BI and Subic Air to make it appear that he never left the country? For a commissioner, his influence over the two government agencies and a private airplane charter company is astounding, to say the least," Remulla said.

The immigration officer who signed RP-C1426's flight clearance to Seletar, Singapore, remained resolute that the document indicated that there were only three crew members—the pilot, copilot and the flight engineer—and that there were no passengers on the flight.

"There's nothing less, nothing more. I have nothing, really nothing to fear, because Virgilio Garcillano was not in the flight manifest," Raymond Pilac told the INQUIRER. "I will bet my name that he was not on the (flight's) general declaration."

With a report from Leila Salaverria

ATO cries harassment

By Clarissa S. Batino
Business

AIR TRANSPORTATION Office chief Nilo Jatico yesterday said lawmakers who had blamed the ATO for the escape of former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano were guilty of "political harassment."

"I am actually peeved already by what's happening. Our lawmakers should be circumspect in making accusations. What they say about Garcillano's flight is an issue of security, which is not a direct responsibility of the ATO," said Jatico in an interview.

He said the ATO would conduct its own investigation into allegations that Garcillano had flown to Singapore aboard a Subic Air Learjet.

"We don't have any documents on the reported flight of Garcillano. This is a security problem, not safety," he stressed.

Jatico said the ATO would also probe the pilot of the aircraft, as well as the charter company itself, on whether it told the truth about the July 14 flight.

"We can suspend the pilot of the aircraft and ground the company itself if we find out there was misdeclaration of the flight details and the manifest. This is where ATO will come in," said the ATO chief.

The ATO, said Jatico, was mainly responsible for aviation safety, including the fitness of airlines to carry passengers. It is also responsible for the operation of minor airports and for the monitoring of the country's air space.

"Some politicians are just making blatant accusations that are devoid of facts and figures. They project a negative perception of the agency to the public, which is totally unfair," said Jatico.

He accused the lawmakers of "political harassment leading to political tyranny."

Transport Secretary Leandro Mendoza, as usual, could not be reached for comment. Mendoza's bodyguard, who answered his cellular phone, said he would relay the message to the secretary, but the INQUIRER got no return call.

Mikey back from US ...

From page A1

quietly returned to Manila with his wife and daughter before dawn yesterday.

His reasons: To attend the 31st birthday yesterday of his younger brother Dato, to allow his wife Angela to celebrate her own birthday with close relatives today, and to see to it that his constituents were getting the public service due them despite his absence.

Accused by a "jueteng" informant of taking bribes from illegal gambling, the President's eldest son returned home as the House of Representatives was preparing for a crucial vote on the impeachment case against his mother.

The congressman, his wife and daughter Mikaela Gloria flew in at 4 a.m. on board a Philippine Airlines flight from San Francisco.

In a short statement e-mailed to reporters, his office said Arroyo's stay in the country would be brief.

Still on leave

"Representative Mikey said he remained on official leave from his legislative duties since he was expected to return abroad in the next few days," it said.

It added that Mikey Arroyo "would be visiting with his constituents and meeting his local leaders to ensure the continued delivery of public services and assistance to his district-mates."

The homecoming would also allow Angela to observe her birthday with her family and close relatives today, the statement said.

During a Senate investigation, "jueteng" witness Sandra Cam claimed she personally delivered jueteng payola to Arroyo and his uncle, Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo.

Easing the heat

The Arroyos vehemently denied the allegations. But Mikey Arroyo decided to go on leave from the House. Soon after, Mikey and his father, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo—whom jueteng witnesses had also linked to the jueteng racket—decided to temporarily live abroad to ease the political heat off the President.

Ms Arroyo is facing her own troubles, having been accused of conspiring with an election commissioner to rig the results of the 2004 presidential election.

The First Gentleman himself also recently returned to the country to attend the funeral of his eldest sister. He has gone abroad again.

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Manila police say crime down

By Margaux C. Ortiz

POLICE must be doing something right around Manila's schools.

In a meeting with the Manila Police District (MPD) last week, officials of De La Salle University and College of St. Benilde in Malate said that crime incidents in their area dropped by about 45 percent after the Task Force Safe Schools was created in 2003.

"We are very happy to continue working with the MPD and we are now aiming for zero-crime incident in our area," Dr. Carmelita P. Pabiton, Dean of Student Affairs of DLSU-Manila said in a statement.

MPD-Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit (CIDU) head Supt. Rolando Miranda said the schools reported no robbery and theft incidents in the area since May 2005.

MPD Station 9 policemen have been tasked to protect students of DLSU, CSB and St. Scholastica's College.

Miranda said similar efforts were being undertaken to protect students in the University Belt.

"The Mendiola Corsortium and University Belt have their campus security organization where security officers cooperate with policemen assigned at MPD Stations 4 and 8 in monitoring petty crimes and preventing unscrupulous elements from preying on students," Miranda said.

In a related development, Miranda ordered "covert security and monitoring" in all public utility vehicles like buses, jeepneys, and FX taxis.

"We would be deploying more *sekretas* or plainclothes policemen inside these PUVs to reduce the number of complaints due to robberies and theft," Miranda said of the memorandum he issued last week.

Miranda said the policemen would be deployed in two shifts: from 5 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 4 p.m. to 12 midnight.

"Our recent studies show that criminals often strike during rush hour where they could victimize many commuters," Miranda said.

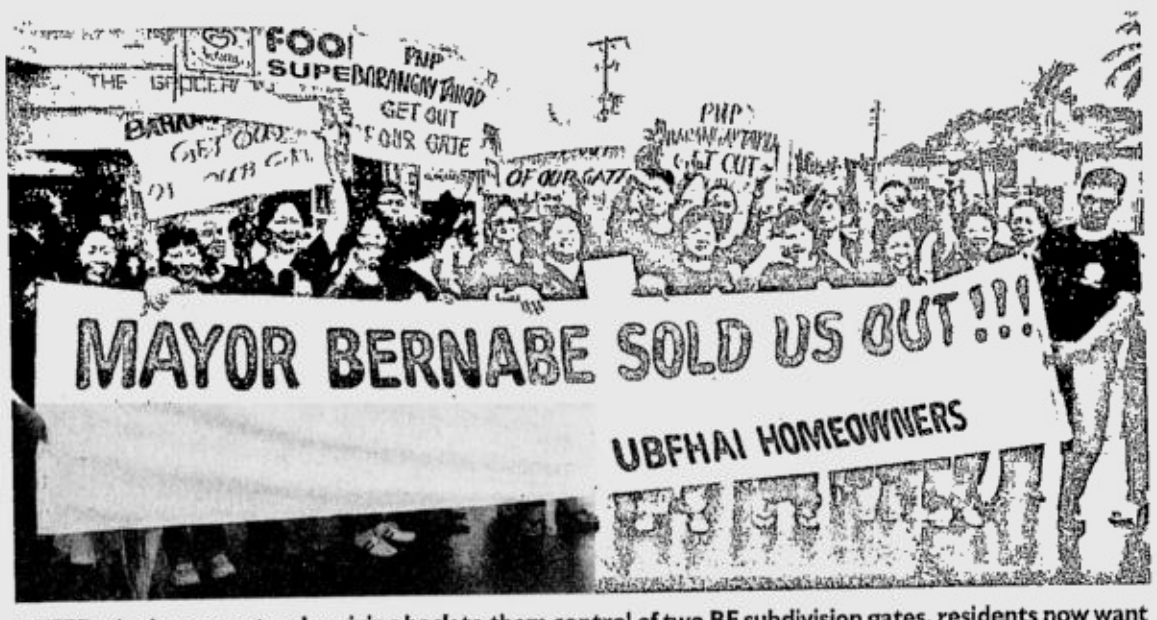
He added that he had ordered the deployment of *sekretas* in busy routes like Divisoria-Morayta, Morayta-San Juan, Divisoria-Pasay, Quiapo-Pasay, Vito Cruz-Sta. Cruz and along Taft Avenue.

"Although there has been a significant reduction in criminal incidents in the city, we are still doing our best to improve the situation," Miranda said.

MPD officials earlier said that the crime rate in the city decreased by 16 percent during the second quarter of 2005 compared to the same period last year.

Quarterly statistics showed that 282 crime cases were recorded from May to July 2005 compared to 334 in the same period last year.

Miranda said that he had also deployed CIDU personnel in two shifts to conduct police visibility patrols in vital installations like Light Rail Transit stations "in order to prevent all forms of criminal activities and possible target of terroristic attacks."



AFTER winning a court order giving back to them control of two BF subdivision gates, residents now want the head of Parañaque City Mayor Jun Bernabe. RYAN LIM

BF gates closed to motoring public

By Tarra V. Quismundo

HOMEOWNERS of BF Homes subdivision in Parañaque City launched yesterday the Recall Mayor Jun Bernabe Movement for implementing an ordinance opening the village's gates and roads to public motorists.

Members of the United BF Homeowners Association, Inc. (UBFHAI) held a thanksgiving mass yesterday after Muntinlupa Regional Trial Court Branch 256 Judge Alberto Lerma gave back control of the subdivision's El Grande and Aguirre gates to residents.

It was Bernabe who ordered that the two gates be opened to the public a week ago and now the UBFHAI want him ousted.

Security guards at El Grande and Aguirre main gates yesterday told the INQUIRER that limited access through the gates were restored Saturday, and vehicles lacking BF Homes access stickers were allowed to enter only if drivers left identification cards or their driver's licenses.

Nelson Lacambra, Bernabe's spokesperson, said the mayor had yet to receive a copy of Lerma's order, thus a status quo should be observed.

Resolution to C5 junction row sought

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

GET YOUR acts together.

That was the plea of Pasig City Mayor Vicente Eusebio to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and the Makati City government as their dispute over the C5-Kalayaan Avenue intersection dragged on.

Eusebio, who recently threw out the number-coding scheme in Pasig, said traffic buildup at the intersection was already affecting city roads.

"I hope and I pray (MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando and Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay) would agree on the issue and finally put their acts together for the benefit of the public," Eusebio said in an open letter.

Fernando earlier put u-turn slots in the area to improve traffic but Binay removed these, saying these were ineffective.

The Department of Public Works and Highways already announced a plan to build an interchange at the intersection but Fernando said it was too costly.

Fernando said funds for the project could be used for other purposes.

Binay is reportedly in favor of the interchange.

8 more foot bridges to rise across metro

By Tarra V. Quismundo

AIMING to provide safe passageways to pedestrians, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) will build eight more footbridges across major roads in the metropolis before yearend.

This month, the Traffic Engineering Center (TEC) of the MMDA Traffic Operations Center will begin the third set of overpasses under the agency's 2-year-old footbridge program.

Ramon Ona, TEC chief engineer, in an interview last week, said six of the footbridges would span Edsa, while two would be erected in Pasay and Quezon City.

Specifically, three Edsa footbridges will be constructed in Caloocan City, one near the corner of Bansalangin Street fronting SM North Edsa annex, one near Main Avenue in Cubao, and another near Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City, a few meters from Heritage Hotel.

Ona said the overpasses would be of the simple "crossover" design, which are straight walkways. A similar bridge will be installed across Quezon City's Quirino Highway, at its intersection with Baesa Road.

Meanwhile, a more complex footbridge will be constructed across Taft Avenue, near Edsa. TEC engineers designed an L-shaped footbridge for this crossing, said Ona.

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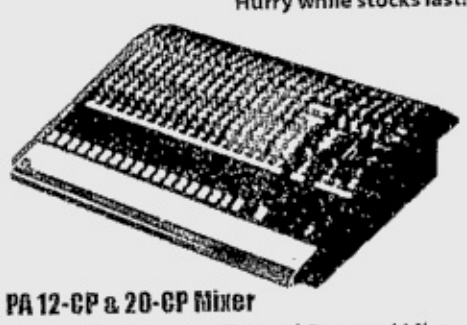

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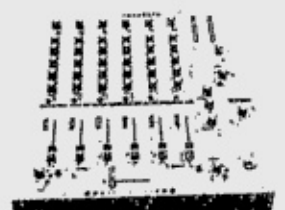

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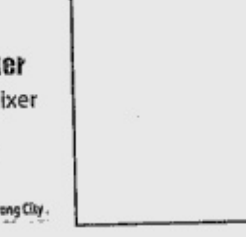

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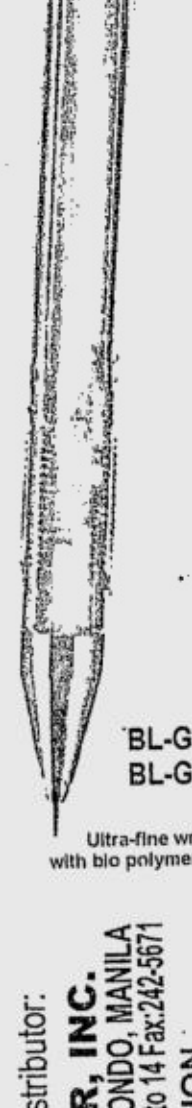

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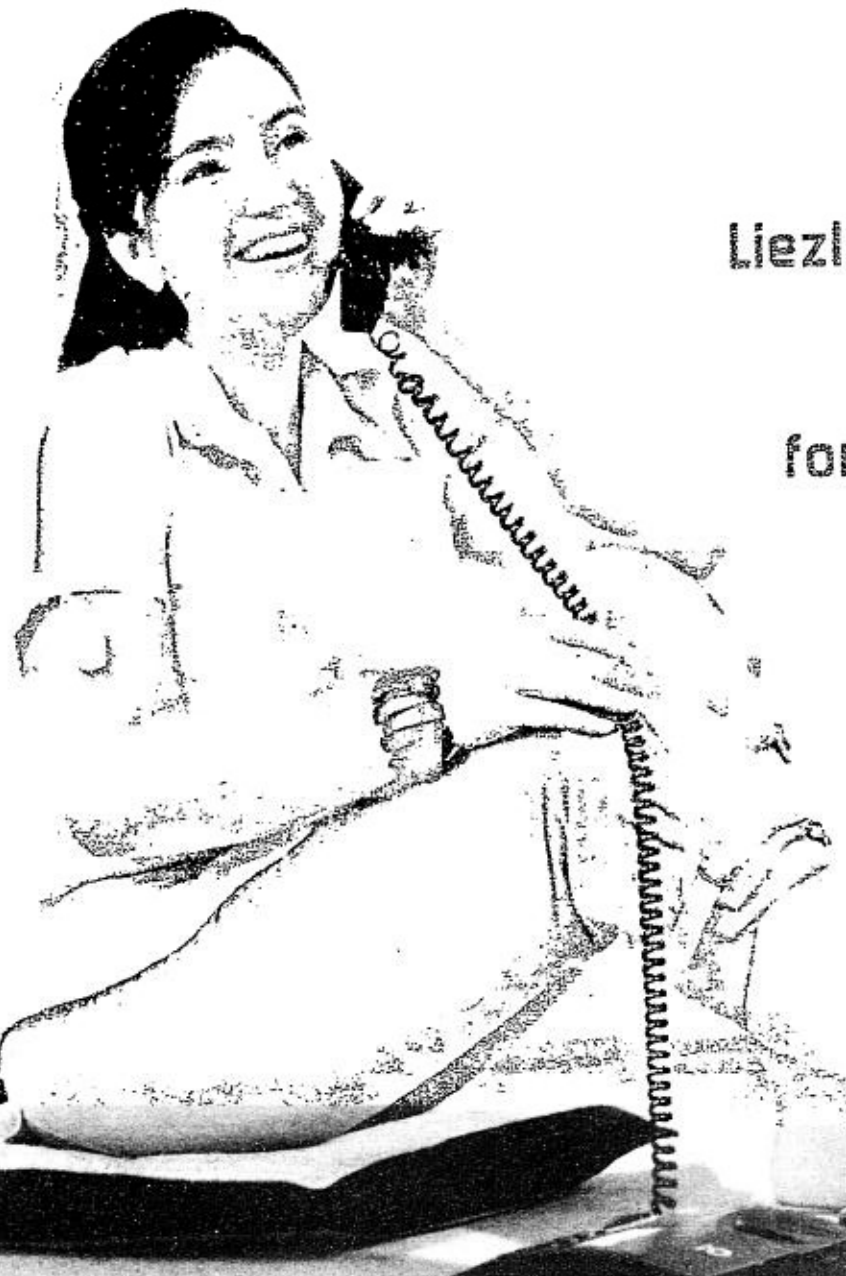

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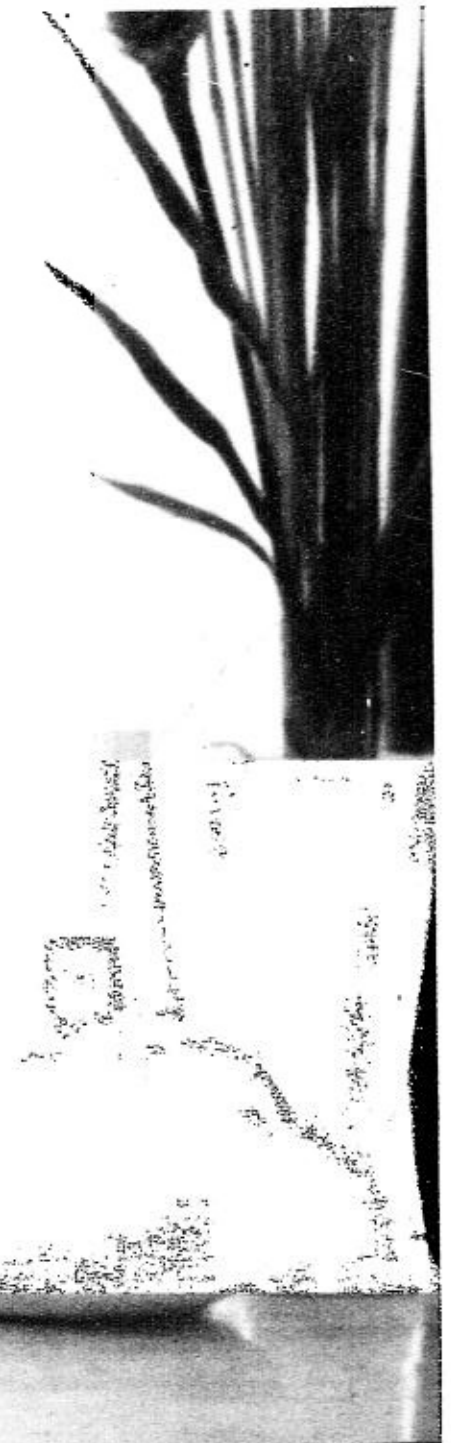

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TENNIS: 2005 US Open; 7 a.m. and 11 p.m.; Sports Plus —It's down to the final 16 at Flushing Meadows.

MOTOR SPORTS: F1 Italian Grand Prix Race Day; 4:30 p.m.; STAR Sports—Take another look at the recent race from Monza.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

SPORTS TV1

Compiled by L. Manguiat

Free agents secure jobs

COULDN'T get their careers rolling in the Philippine Basketball Association, nine unrestricted free agents have sought greener pastures in a foreign land.

Thanks to player-agent Ed Ponceja, ex-PBA players Estong Ballesteros, Edwin Bacani, Rensy Bajar and Gilbert Malabanan have landed jobs in Indonesia as imports in the Indonesian Basketball League.

Joining them are undrafted and unsigned players Romar Menor, Willy Mejia, Arnel Manalac, Michael Garcia and Bernard de Guia. They left for Jakarta Saturday night.

According to Ponceja, the players will be spread out among the 10 teams in the IBL through a dispersal draft, PBA-style, and will be paid $800 a month exclusive of bonuses.

Hotel accommodation and billeting will also be provided, added Ponceja, who hooked up with IBL commissioner Agus Mauro and negotiated on the players' behalf. *June Navarro*

MARESTELLA Torres soars for her record-breaking feat in the long jump final of the Asian Championships. REUTERS

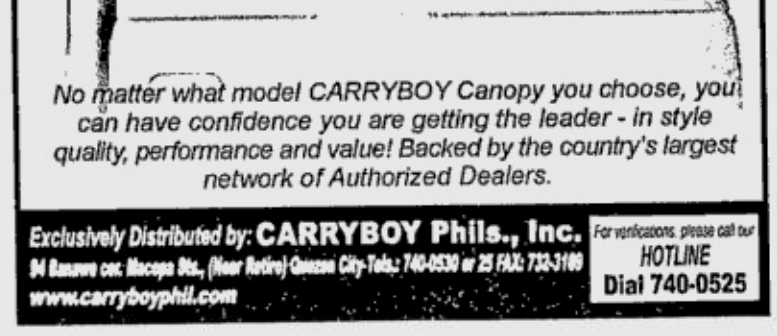
Torres rips long jump mark

MARESTELLA TORRES won the silver medal in the women's long jump final in the 16th Asian Athletic Championships in Incheon, Korea, on Sunday.

Her leap of 6.63 meters is only .02 centimeter off the golden jump of Bobby George Anju of India (6.53) and way better than the 6.52 of bronze winner Ikeda Kumiko of Japan. It broke the Philippine record of 6.56 co-owned by the now semi-retired Elma Muros and Lerma Bulauitan-Gabito (2004).

It also ended a 12-year medal drought for the Philippines which had a bronze courtesy of Muros, also in long jump, when Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association (Patafa) president Go Teng Kok brought the prestigious event in Manila in 1993.

"She's the new queen of 'GTK's Army,' and I'm mighty proud of her," said Go who immediately informed the RP Team's generous sponsors, San Miguel Corp., Pagcor and the First Gentleman Foundation, of Torres' feat.



Lions rule Streetball

By June Navarro

SAN BEDA College seized the 2005 Adidas Asian Streetball crown after squeezing past West Negros College, 17-13, in an all-Filipino finale yesterday at the Araneta Coliseum.

Egged on by a big Sunday crowd, the Red Lions rode on the heroics of Jay-R Taganas and Riego Gamalinda to pocket the 3-on-3 crown and the $2,000 worth of Adidas gift certificates that went with it.

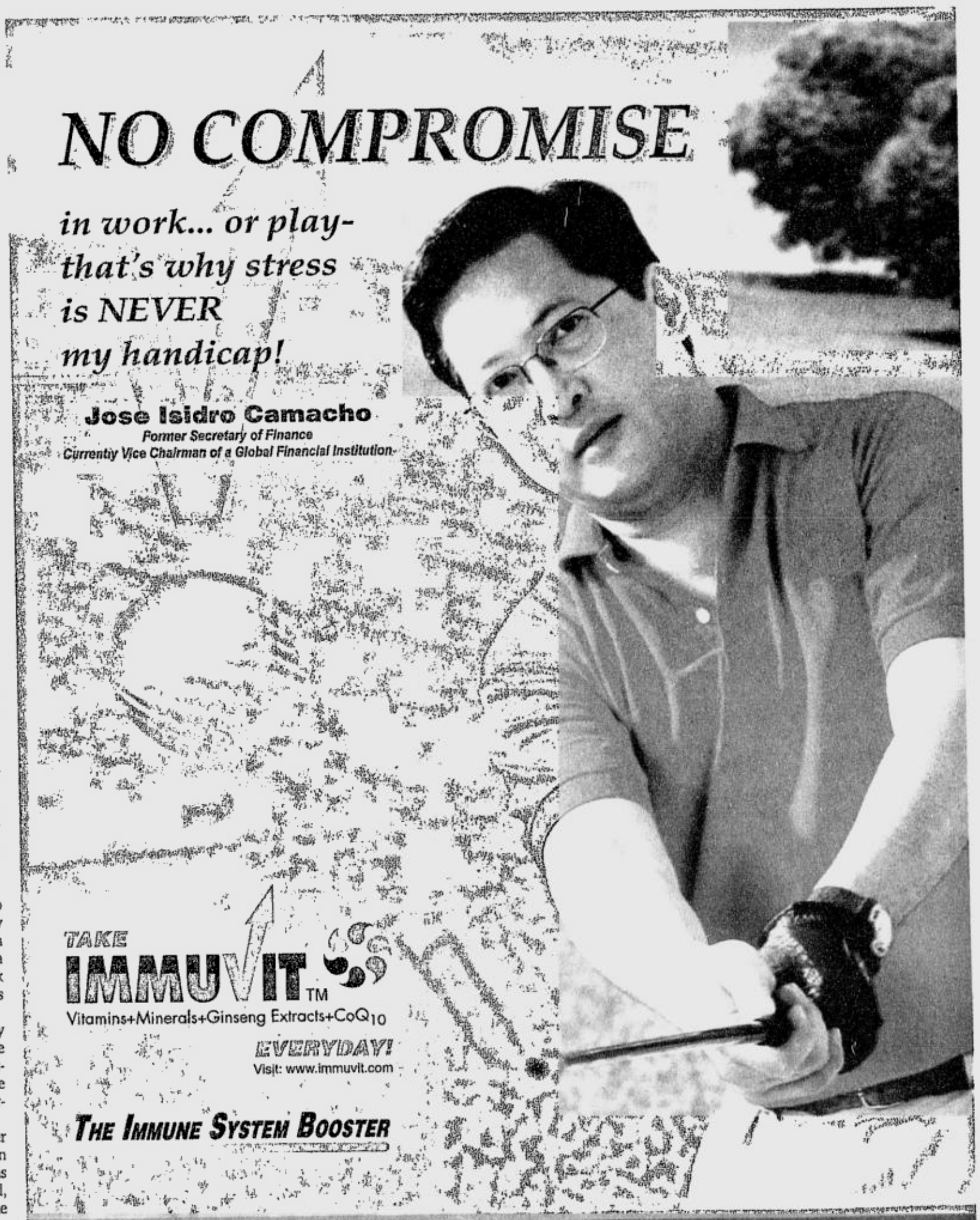
Representing the Philippines' Team A, the Red Lions actually bounced back from an earlier defeat at the hands of WNC cagers in the elims. The Visayas champions swept the preliminary round.

"It was a tough game but we just played with a bigger heart," said RP Team A coach Rene Baena, whose Lions won an all-expense paid trip to the United States to watch an NBA game in Houston late this year, five pieces of Adidas eyewear and five Cherifer gift packs during the awarding ceremony graced by Portland Trailblazers' Sebastian Telfair.

Taganas delivered the key baskets midway in the 20-minute match before Gamalinda sealed the fate of the Visayas champions with two pressure-packed charities.

In the girls' division, Chinese-Taipei turned back China, 17-13, to bag the girls' title of the event co-presented by Globe Gentxt and backed by McDonald's, Cherifer Multivitamins, Snickers chocolate bar, Nissan, Coppertone, Adidas fragrance and body care, Blue Angel alcohol, Milo, Powerade, Viva Mineral Water, Adidas eyewear and Yehey.com.

The Taiwanese also took home $2,000 worth of Adidas gift certificates, Adidas eyewear, Cherifer gift packs plus Globe Gentxt phone kits.



83 days to the 23rd SEA Games

Merchandise ready for sale

MERCHANDISE items for the 23rd Southeast Asian Games are now being readied in time for the biennial meet slated Nov. 27 to Dec. 5.

The Philippine SEA Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc) has tapped five official licensees that will manufacture all related SEA Games souvenir articles.

The five licensee groups are BC Management, Penzon's Handicrafts Inc., Suarez Arts Metal Technology , Raymundo's trophies and sculpture, and Asiano Manille. Among the items being manufactured are shirts, caps, bags, mugs, key chains, stuffed toys, ballpens, pillows, among others. Maricel Adra, assistant of Philsoc marketing associate Rico Meneses, said the items are all affordable, ranging from P90 to P200.

Pacquiao wary of Velasquez's 'dirty tactics'

MANNY Pacquiao has been told to be extra careful against the "dirty tactics" of Hector Velasquez when they clash in the other mainer of a fight card that also features Erik Morales on Sept. 10 at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

American featherweight Rocky Juarez issued this warning to the Pacquiao camp recently. Juarez battled Velasquez two years ago for the WBC Continental Americas featherweight title.

"Velasquez has a much better chance of beating Pacquiao than (ex-Olympian Zahir) Raheem has of beating Morales," Juarez said, citing the Mexican's ability to "take a good punch."

"Velasquez is the tougher fighter. He is a good fighter and crafty. I want to say that he is a good dirty fighter."

Juarez said he expects Velasquez to hit Pacquiao "behind the head when the referee is not looking."

"He knows how to use his head on the inside like a third hand, he will hit while he is holding," the American added. *Salven L. Lagumbay*

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SPORTSWATCH

National cyclists PSA Forum guests

THE PHILIPPINE cycling team to the 23rd Southeast Asian Games will come in full force in tomorrow's PSA Forum at the Pantalan Restaurant in Manila. Head coach Jomel Lorenzo leads members of the team attending the weekly session. Also appearing are officials of the Philippine Asean Para Games Organizing Committee and the Enduro San Mig Light Adventure Series.

PCAP holds inaugural derby

THE PINOY Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP) will stage today its first 5-stag one day derby at the air-conditioned Makati Coliseum. Promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co said that nine PCAP 5-stag derbies will be held at the Makati Coliseum. PCAP's regular members are Gerry Ramos, Ruel Ricafort, Emil Chua, Gov. Ito Ynares, Jimafer Group, William Go, Efren Canlas, Tony Marfori, Butch Macasaet, Ashley Arayata, E. Abella, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Rey Briones, Jun Marasigan, Boyet Joson, Ferdie Eusebio, Arman Santos, Benjie Lim, Reps. Gerry Boy Espina, Butch Pichay, Nonoy Libanan and Jing Paras, Rudy Albano, Pol Estrellado, Boy Royo, Manny Pacquiao, Jose Orillaza, Vice Mayor Nestor Mercado, William Co, Blandy Tolentino, John Capinpin, Bobby Doromal and Boy Marso.For details, call 896 -3545 and 895 -6475.

San Juan Coliseum opens Sept. 13

THE "GCAP Super Big Event 8–Stag Derby," an exclusive showdown of the country's big-time cockers, will be the main fare of San Juan Coliseum's grand opening on Sept. 13 and 15. The coliseum boasts state-of-the-art airconditioning system, modern facilities and a country-style townhouse where participants can stay during the derby. "We guarantee complete cockfighting facilities, clean restrooms and ample parking spaces," said Patrick Antonio, one of the operators. For inquiries, call Ariel at 0917-806-1691.

Roligon 'Showdown' round two today

TOUGHER action is expected in Roligon Mega Cockpit's "National Showdown 7–Stag Derby" second round eliminations today. Five participants posted three wins each Saturday night to set the pace: Ramon Mancenares (RM–Enzu), Rene Acop (Adiaman Blues), Ric Reyes (RBR Rian Warbirds), Pablo Hupano of Pangasinan (Michael Jr. I) and JTJ Maria Cristita entry. Call 851-2275, 833-1638 and 852-9812 or 0917 -8277484 for details.

SPORTS AMBASSADOR: Multititled shooter Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla (left) is congratulated by POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. after receiving his certificate as one of 12 Filipino "sports ambassadors" who will help promote the 23rd Southeast Asian Games here.

Tamaraws down Falcons

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE FAR Eastern U Tamaraws continued their mastery over opponents, further adding to the misery of the ousted Adamson Falcons with a 66-56 victory yesterday in the UAAP basketball tournament at the Blue Eagle Gym.

Despite being assured of a Final Four berth, the Tamaraws are not letting up on the gas pedal, if only to secure the top spot going into the semifinals. They inched closer to that goal—and to a twice-to-beat edge in the knockout phase—with their 10th win against a lone defeat.

"Our target is to remain number one because other teams can still catch up," said FEU coach Bert Flores.

Jeff Chan shot 15 points off the bench, while Arwind Santos again came out big with 12 points and 11 rebounds.

The University of the East's bid for the semifinal bonus also remained on track after the Warriors trampled on the National University Bulldogs, 68-50.

The Warriors shook off a shaky first-half performance behind 2004 Rookie of the Year Marcy Arellano, who pumped in 16 points.

The Warriors kept second place at 10-3, but coach Dindo Pumaren noted that the Ateneo Eagles (8-3) remain in the running for the top two slots.

The Warriors staged an 8-0 tear in less than two minutes for a 16-point bubble, 38-22, at the start of the third period.

After Arellano opened the fourth quarter with back-to-back triples, the Warriors led comfortably by as many as 24 points, 59-35.

Meanwhile, La Salle will file an appeal to the UAAP board today after the league's technical committee overturned its 86-83 overtime win over the UE Warriors.

"We've gathered facts that we'll be presenting to the board," said La Salle assistant team manager Manny Salgado.

The scores:

First Game (Srs)

UE 68—Arellano 16, Palaganas 8, Borboran 8, Sagulndel 7, Gregorio 6, Custodio 6, Espiritu 5, Lapeña 4, Cañizares 4, Labagala 2, Babilonia 2, Raymundo 0, Napo 0, Martinez 0.

NU 50—Asoro 14, Flor 7, Sanchez 6, Tungcul 5, Fernandez 5, Lingao-Lingao 4, Malcontento 3, Salvado 2, Jahnke 2, D. Catamora 2, Dela Cruz 0, C. Catamora 0.

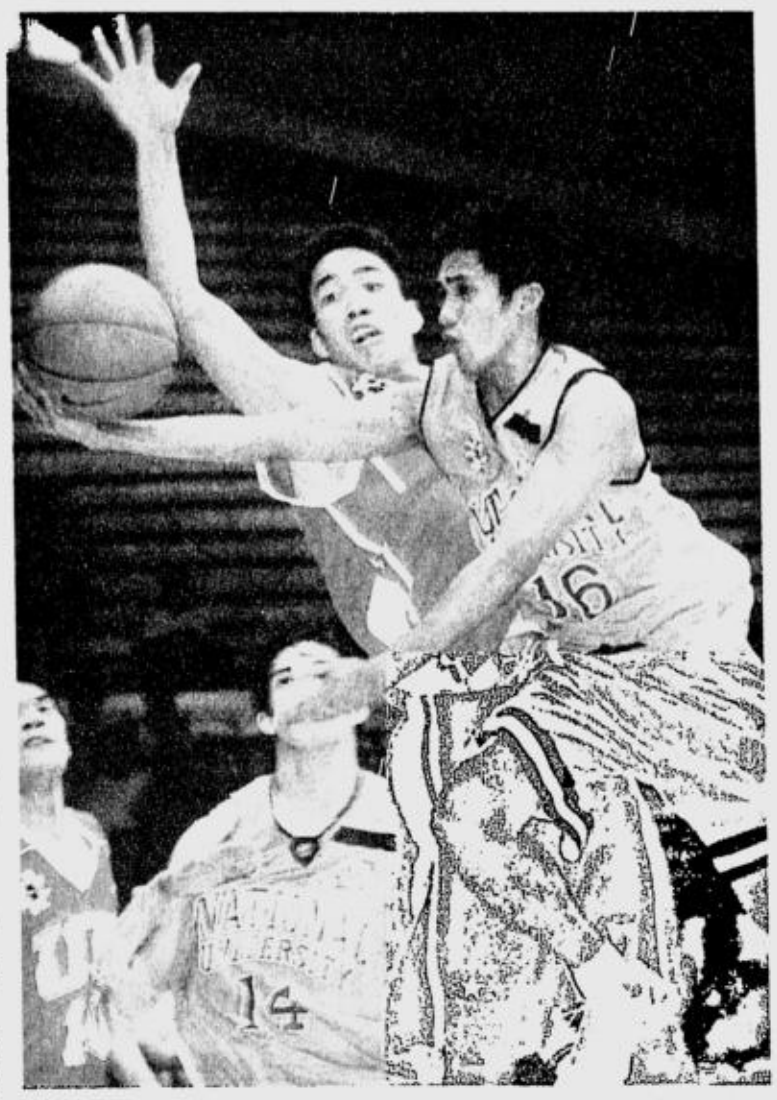
Quarters: 10-10, 30-22, 43-32, 68-50

Second Game (Srs)

FEU 66—Chan 15, Santos 12, Jo. Villanueva 10, Mangahas 8, Flores 6, Rizada 3, Nietes 2, Fernandez 2, Adolfo 2, Je. Villanueva 0, Saldua 0, Dela Cruz 0, Barcellano 0.

ADAMSON 56—Cabahug 15, Bono 14, Hato 9, Tajonera 5, Yong 4, Capati 4, Canuday 3, Poloyapoy 2, Pacheco 0, Tiongco 0, Gonzalgo 0.

Quarters: 20-13, 34-23, 52-39, 66-56



NU'S Jonathan Fernandez goes for a lay-up off UE's Kelvin Gregorio as Luis Palaganas (UE) and Howard Flor (NU) look on. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Asuela, Bitoon lead

ELLAN Asuela and Jimson Bitoon hurdled their first three games in convincing fashions to lead a big bunch of players with perfect scores in the junior division of the 2005 Shell National Youth Active Chess Championships at SM City in Iloilo over the weekend. Asuela downed Noel Gumban, Cris Garcia and John Galia while Bitoon beat Mark Gustillo, Stella Gaudiano and Francis Letrero to join Asuela and 15 others at the helm.

PNTCC Slipstream Party a success

THE FIRST of a series of Slipstream Party was held Friday night at Thompson-Square, T. Morato, Quezon City.

The grand open party was co-sponsored by Race Fans Inc. to present the racing cars and drivers who will participate in the Philippine National Touring Car Championship on Sept. 10-11 at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas.

The party's main attraction included slipstream hotties and the upcoming rock band, Shamrock.

The Slipstream Party Series is a bimonthly event that will be held at various locations around Metro Manila to promote the PNTCC, the only nationally titled and internationally recognized competition in motor sports.

As envisioned by Richard Santos of Race Fans Inc., the newly organized PNTCC will have the largest number of participants in any race in the country.

Setting the '91 SEAG record straight

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

UPDATE: The man introduced himself as Simon Lee, after he walked over to my lunch table in an eatery on the opposite side of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex last week. The president of Seminole International Sales, a lover of RP basketball, then fished out several crisp P1,000 bills from his pocket. The sum was delivered to Romy Cabading, the former RP and PBA player who has been crushed and crippled by a speed maniac in Pangasinan. My *kumpadre* Nando Balahan, expert swimming pool builder who brought the donation to the victim's residence, also borrowed X-ray films done on Cabading's body for evaluation by Dr. Jose Raul Canlas of the Philippine contingent. ...Gil Cortez, a co-player of Cabading's at the old Manila Bank, says he's joining hands with other former teammates to help the fallen ex-national cager...former national cycling champion Jess Garcia has been going the rounds raising funds for Cabading, his close friend.)

***

DID RP really miss being the strongest sporting nation in Southeast Asia 14 years ago by only one gold medal?

It may be called the Miracle of '91, but before we all get carried away again, the final count must be set straight on how far RP had finished behind Indonesia in the 1991 SEA Games staged in Manila.

The Philippines, contrary to hysterical claims, did not lose to Indonesia by only one gold medal.

Shoddy claims have conveniently covered the real, honest, irrevocable truth and made it appear RP missed the overall championship by one golden breath.

OK, the RP campaign of '91 was labeled as super due to the shouted-out nearness the national contingent had supposedly come to winning the overall championship.

Here's the truth: RP lost it by two gold medals, not just by one.

***

Take it from the guy who was assigned to keep the official medal count.

His name: Josef Dumuk, who has since taken refuge in San Fernando, La Union, where he continues to follow with a critical eye the happenings in Philippine sports.

"I was hoping they would stop saying that we missed the 1991 overall title by one gold," Dumuk said.

Why?

"We can never justify saying that two nations with same number of golds but different number of silvers as having equal rank. We lost to Indonesia by two golds in 1991," Dumuk told the INQUIRER.

That meant RP would've remained stuck at second behind Indonesia even if, by any twist of fate, one of our athletes had managed to chart a first-place finish on the final day of competitions.

***

Dumuk was designated as official Games Statistician stationed at the Press Center.

Josef, whose brother Red is connected with various national sports associations, continued: "Even if the score was 92 in the race for gold medals, Indonesia *pa rin*, because they had more silver medals. We needed two more gold medals to be overall champions in 1991."

He then provided the final tally, in the gold-silver-bronze order: Indonesia, 92 86 69; Philippines, 91 62 84.

Anyway, Dumuk has been trying to determine if RP could finally make it to the top when the country hosts the 2005 SEA Games starting Nov. 27.

He's also wondering if our top sports officials would finally be able see eye-to-eye and keep their act together in the run-up to the Games.

So far, there's been an evident lack of communication among certain officials involved in the preparations and the campaign proper.

Take the sudden demotion of Obet Pagdanganan, whose powers as head of the Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc) had been clipped overnight.

***

There were believable claims Pagdanganan had been a victim of intense internal politicking.

Also cited was the disgust manifested by other top officials over the warning aired by Michael Keon, national training director, who had said RP could be losing its hometown edge in training to rival powers like Thailand and Vietnam.

Dumuk begs these officials to, please, communicate.

He cited a sorry example in this concluding text message:"Good day brod. Here's the RP basketball situation-the desire to replace one undesirable cog in the BAP results in putting the whole sport in disarray and jeopardy, with a Senate hearing to boot. What happened was another example of 'Failure to Communicate.'"

That undesirable alien is none other than Graham Lim, who continues to run circles around immigration officials months after they had ordered him deported for faking his citizenship papers.

It pays to speak clear and set the record straight.

The reason why Dumuk, our informer, remains annoyed and alarmed that the honest tally in the 1991 SEA Games had been shrouded by miscommunication all these years.

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CHESS CHAMPS: The Tagaytay City chess team won both the standard and rapid team events in the Merdeka—Open Chess Team, Championship recently. The team, supported by Tagaytay Mayor Bambol Tolentino, is composed of (from left) Rodolfo Panopio Jr., Ronald Llavanes, GM Nelson Mariano II, team captain and delegation head Willie Abalos, Fide secretary general Ignacius Leong and GM Joey Antonio.

Real Spicy smashes record

By Edwin Villanueva, *Contributor*

JUST how good is Real Spicy nowadays?

The answer came in the form of a record-smashing victory yesterday in the Class Division that sent the huge crowd at the San Lazaro Leisure Park oohing and aahing.

Real Spicy roared through like a rampaging hurricane over 1,500 meters and clocked a dizzying 1:31 flat despite the muddy track.

The 3-year-old son of Real Quiet out of Spicy Tale submitted dizzying splits of 17.5-23.5-23.5 and 26.5, in the process wiping out the 1:31.4 previous best time set by former Triple Crown champion Real Top in the 1999 Open Championship.

"*Talagang napupunto* (He's such in peak form)," said star jockey. Antonio Alcasid Jr. who had an easy time driving the prized colt of owner-breeder Hermie Esguerra from the tailend to the blistering win.

Real Spicy crossed the wire four lengths clear of Speed Advantage amid the thunderous roar of racing fans. Cat's Gold wound up third, while Empire Car brought up the rear.

"We're pointing him towards the Derby in October," said Esguerra, referring to the next assignment being mapped out for the recent Horseman's Cup winner and last year's Juvenile titlist.

Despite being slow off the gates, Real Spicy worked his way up from the outside and passed his rivals with a powerful surge nearing the home turn.

Speed Advantage made a last-ditch bid along the rail but Alcasid simply tapped Real Spicy twice on the flank to ensure the record-ripping triumph.

HOOPS SCHOOL: Growee Hoops School, co-founded by seven-time Best Import Bobby Parks and PBL Commissioner Charlie Favis, will begin its camp in Brent International School Baguio on Sept. 17. Registration is ongoing at Brent Baguio and at David's Salon on Porta Vaga Building, Session Road. John Grice and Parks (right) teach kids the correct way of making a free throw at a recent camp in Metro Manila.

Fiba's dilemma

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

NOW THAT the Fiba, the ruling body for world basketball, has reaffirmed its recognition of the POC-expelled Basketball Association of the Philippines as its regularly affiliated member, it is best for BAP president Joey Lina to appeal to the members of the Philippine Olympic Committee general assembly for reinstatement in the local Olympic body.

The reinstatement of the BAP is one way for the Philippines to regain its old ties with the Fiba and set the stage not only for basketball to be played in the coming SEA Games but also for the Philippines to continue its quest for glory in the Asian and Olympic Games.

Still, many doubt if the POC general assembly is going to change its mind. The BAP was expelled for very valid reasons. The assembly was offended by the arrogance of BAP officials and their lack of direction and, more recently, for showing disrespect to the authority of the POC by reneging on an agreement it forged with the Olympic body.

The Fiba itself could also be violating its own regulation on the condition needed for membership in the international basketball federation. If I'm not mistaken, that condition that must be met in order to be recognized as member of the Fiba is that the national association is recognized by the highest sport authority in the country, in this case, the POC. But because the BAP is no longer recognized by the POC, how come the Fiba still recognizes the BAP as its regularly affiliated member? Isn't it violating its own regulation?

I do not also agree with the Fiba statement calling the expulsion of the BAP from the POC as "political." In my view, there was nothing "political" about the expulsion of the BAP. The controversy was very much internal in nature and that the Fiba could have given millions of basketball-loving Filipinos something to cheer about had it only allowed the POC to settle the problem.

***

HEATING UP SPORTS. To mark its 10th year in the Philippines, Gatorade, the top-selling sports drink, is introducing the latest sports and educational program called HEAT (Hydration Education Athletic Training).

Through HEAT, Gatorade aims to educate athletes, trainers and educators, as well as consumers, on proper hydration and its impact on maintaining good health and boosting athletic performance.

Recently, two leading scientists form the Gatorade Sports Science Institute (GSSI), Dr. Xiaocai Shi and Ms Kris Osterberg, conducted the "Sweat Test" program on Talk 'N Text players to measure their level of hydration/dehydration during their physical activity. Famous athletes and teams from all over the world such as NBA stars Vince Carter and Yao Ming and the Real Madrid Football Club have undergone the "Sweat Test" to help them develop a proper hydration program and improve their athletic performance.

Dr. Shi, whose expertise is in the area of gastric emptying and intestinal absorption of water, carbohydrates and electrolytes, discussed the results of GSSI's extensive research on sweat loss and fluid availability in the body. While Ms Esterberg, an exercise physiology scientist, tackled sweat and electrolyte losses and hydration findings in the NBA.

A former dietician for the University of Colorado, she explained the benefits of proper hydration during the program.

Clars Guerrero, Gatorade marketing manager, said, "We are happy to share this knowledge with the local athletic and sports medicine community. With a long-term program such as HEAT in place, we hope to help boost sports science in the Philippines and, at the same time, help prepare our athletes for the coming Southeast Asian Games."

Dr. George Canlas, POC Medical Committee head and medical director of the Philippine Sports Commission, is the Philippine representative to the Gatorade Asia Advisory Board.

***

DOMINGO DID US PROUD. The 6-foot-7 Val Domingo, all-around player of NBC-Nature's Spring, should be congratulated for winning the Most Valuable Player award of the recent 9th Crown Prince Cup in Thailand. "We are proud of you," said NBC president and shooting champion Tac Padilla, son of Olympic shooter Tom Ong.

Tañamor, Tipon barge into finals

LIGHT-FLYWEIGHT Harry Tañamor and bantamweight Joan Tipon pummeled their respective rivals to barge into the finals of the 23rd Asian Seniors Boxing Championships Saturday night at the Pan Ding Phung Stadium in Ho Chi Minh City.

With their wins, the Philippines is now assured of two silver medals in the annual slugfest featuring the best boxers from Asia.

Tañamor used his longer reach to land the more solid punches against longtime rival Suban Pannon of Thailand to score a 30-24 victory.

Tipon counter-punched his way to a 26-13 win over Rahhymadyannov of Kazakhstan to assure the country of its second silver medal.

Tañamor guns for the gold against Athens Olympics bronze medalist Hong Moo-Woon of the People's Republic of Korea. Tipon faces Busan silver medalist Bakhtuu of Mongolia in the finals.

"Harry and Joan are going all out to emerge triumphant," said Manny Lopez, president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines and head of delegation.

Light-welterweight Mark Jason Melligen settled for the bronze medal after losing by disqualification for hitting below the belt in the fourth round against Ali Ashgar Shah of Pakistan.

JHMC

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
Republic of the Philippines
Provision of Security Services

Security Service Requirements for the John Hay Special Economic Zone (JHSEZ) and the Camp John Hay (CJH) Reservation

1. The John Hay Management Corporation (JHMC), a subsidiary of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), through its 2006 OPEX Fund intends to apply the sum of Ten Million Three Hundred Seventeen Thousand Pesos Philippine Currency (PhP 10,317,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Security Services of JHMC. Bids lower than the approved PADPAO rate per guard or higher than the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The JHMC now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Security Service Requirements for the JHSEZ and CJH Reservation. Delivery of the security services is required by January 1, 2006. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instructions to Bidders (ITB).
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders must submit their Letter of Intent (LOI) on or before September 9, 2005 and may obtain eligibility requirements at the address given below from September 5 to 9, 2005 (Monday to Friday), 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Deadline for submission of Eligibility documents is on September 12, 2005, 4:00 p.m.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by eligible Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Ten Thousand Pesos (PhP 10,000.00) from September 22 to 26, 2005. The method of payment will be in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The JHMC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all eligible / interested parties on September 28, 2005, 1:30 p.m. at the JHMC Conference Room, Camp John Hay, Baguio City.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 12 noon of October 11, 2005. *All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following form:*
   a. Cash, manager's check, cashier's check, irrevocable letter of credit, or bank draft – one percent (1%) of the Approved Budget for the Contract amounting to PhP 103,170.00
   b. Bank Guarantee – one and a half percent (1½ %) of the Approved Budget for the Contract amounting to PhP 154,755.00
   c. GSIS Surety Bond – two and a half percent (2½ %) of the Approved Budget for the Contract amounting to PhP 257,925.00
8. Bid opening shall be on October 11, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. at the JHMC Conference Room, Camp John Hay, Baguio City. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. JHMC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE
John Hay Management Corporation
Francisca P. Moredo – BAC Chairman
JHMC Office, Camp John Hay, Baguio City
Tel No. (074) 444-5824
Email address: jhmgmtcorp@yahoo.com
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(PDI-August 29 & Sept. 5 2005)

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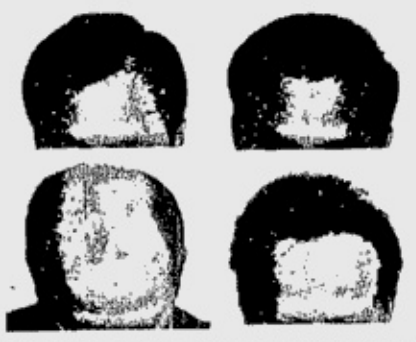

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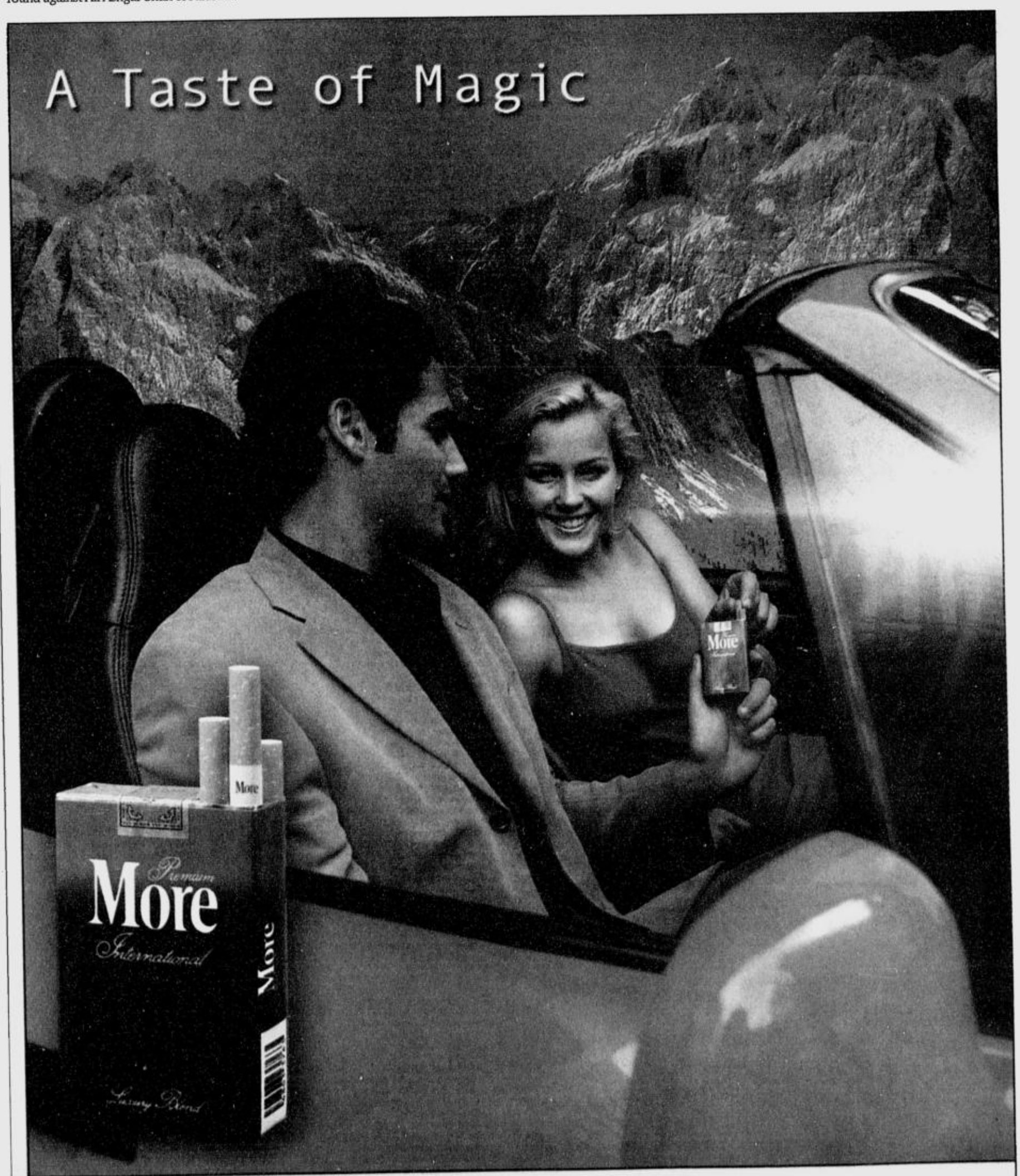

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Blake finally sees the light

'Misfortune's victim' turns luck around, upsets Nadal

AFTER a difficult and try period, James Blake is st get into a groove. Proof i of World No. 2 Rafael Na

NEW YORK—Misfortune's victim for so long, James Blake punctuated the Hollywood-like turnaround of his life and career by upsetting French Open champion Rafael Nadal on Saturday at the US Open.

Blake, who sank to No. 210 in the ATP rankings last spring and needed a wild-card invitation to get into the Open, knocked off the No. 2 Nadal, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, 6-1, as cheers, mixed with more than a few tears, cascaded down from his friends in packed Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"I need a new vocabulary to describe how I felt about that match," Blake's mother, Betty, said. "This time last year he was half-paralyzed and watching this on TV and wondering if he'd ever play tennis again. How good is that? It's like you can't describe how good that is. To see him smile the way he did is wonderful for a mom. He was pretty down last year and trying to hold it all in and keep it away from me because I was grief stricken at the time, too."

Blake was overwhelmed by the constant cheers of his buddies—"The James Block"—and the more than 20,000 fans in the stadium, who gave him a long, warm ovation at the end.

"I truly wish every single person in here could have the feeling I have now," he told them.

If it wasn't the biggest win of the 25-year-old Blake's career—in his mind nothing will ever top his victory over Andre Agassi three years ago en route to his first tour title in Washington—it put him into the fourth round of the US Open for the first time, matched his best-ever performances in Grand Slam events and set him up for a possible quarterfinal confrontation against Agassi.

Agassi, seeded No. 7, had a tough time against No. 32 Tomas Berdych but reached the fourth round with a 3-6, 6-1, 6-4, 7-6 (2) victory.

In other matches, No. 8 Guillermo Coria and No. 13 Richard Gasquet advanced, as did women's No. 2 Lindsay Davenport, No. 3 Amelie Mauresmo, No. 6 Elena Dementieva, No. 7 Justine Henin-Hardenne, No. 11 Patty Schnyder, No. 12 Mary Pierce, No. 15 Nathalie Dechy and No. 19 Elena Likhovtseva, who beat 2004 French Open champion and No. 13 Anastasia Myskina.

"If someone had told me a year ago that I'd have to go out and lose love, love and love in the quarterfinals of the Open to Andre Agassi, I'd say, I'd take it in a heartbeat," Blake said. "If that happens, so be it. I'm going to go out there and play the same way I've been playing, not be afraid. Today I was not afraid to play Rafael Nadal. I will not be afraid to play Andre."

The match between Blake and Nadal, two of the speediest players in tennis, gyrated around brilliant shots by each of them in the first two sets. AP

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The Conference

November 8, Day 1: The Developers' Series
Intended Output: Basic Career Roadmap for Individuals

- Getting Ready to Get Certified, Mapping Your Skills
- Certifications & Career – Is There a Connection?
- Vendor - Specific Certifications
- Vendor - Neutral Certifications
- Open Source Certifications
- Functional Area Certifications - An Overview

November 9, Day 2: The Leaders' Forum
Intended Output: Basic Quality Framework for the Organization

- Software Quality 101....Making Sense of It All
- Project Management and Software Quality - The Hidden Connection
- An Introduction to Capability Maturity Model Integrated (CMMI)
  - CMMI For Outsourcing Companies
  - CMMI For Product Developers
  - Focusing on your Core Asset- People: Understanding P-CMM
- Sustaining Success - Quality in Software Services Support
  - An Overview of ITIL
  - An Overview of BS 15000
- We Are a Small Software House, Where Do We Begin?
  - Taking Your First Steps in Software Quality
  - The Hybrid Approach
- Plus, Bonus Tracks on:
  - Quality Standard (eSCM) for BPOs
  - Information Security- Why is it so Important?
- Synthesis

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Day 2, Leaders' Forum: P 5,500 vat inclusive

** Note: One (1) paid slot at the Leaders' Forum entitles delegate to one (1) slot at the Developers' Series FREE.*

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KARATEKAS and officals of the Philippine delegation are all smiles after a decent showing in the Asian Invitational.

Anonas, Pabillo

FRESH from his victory in the Philippine Karatedo Federation national championships this year, Gerardo Rodrigo Anonas led four other Filipino bets in winning gold medals in the recent Asian Karatedo Invitational Tournament in Hong Kong.

The 18-year-old Anonas, who won in the -60kg men's kumite, is from the AAK Ateneo Karate Society. The other gold medalists were Revie Sani of Marawi in the -70kg men's kumite; Mae Eso Soriano of SKI in the -48kg w Pabillore o women's ku of JKA in the

With th bronze med PKF team en Malaysia, w

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The bron man "Sonny Rizal Univer

INQUIRER

WOW mating MaLi!

ABC

Sabado 9pm

Ang Mahiwagang Bowl featuring "Ang Alamat ng Bakla"

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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Concert at the Park				Teledyaryo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Dial M			
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Cpids	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Kampanerang Kuba	Pinoy Big Brother	Green Rose	OK Fine! Whatever			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		Winner TV Shopping		TNA Impact		Sentro	Friends	Guinness Book Of Record		Fear Factor		Big News	Look Who's Talking		Billboard On-Air	
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Hotelier	Shaman King	Slam Dunk	All For Love		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Dama	Encantadia	Sugo	Attic Cat	Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita			Saksi
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Ambush Makeover		Medium		Cold Case		Newswatch Now	Sox & the City	Carga For Truth	
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Krusada Kontra Kamen		MTV		Men of Power	Basketball Show		King Of Adventure		IBC News Tonite	Linawin Natin	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop		New Life TV Shop				EZ Shop				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Superfine TV Shopping		Evening Devotions	
Studio 23								Get Backers	Beyblade	Wazzup Wazzup	America's Next Top Model	Tru Calling		Charmed		News Central	The Next Joe Millionaire		Travel Time
MTV Philippines	Spring Break	MTV Urban Beats	MTV Pop Inc		Wade Robson	Hanging Out At MTV	MTV Get Spotted	TRL		Massive	MTV Play	Dyes		Rockola	MTV Jams	The 70's House	Laguna Beach	MTV Play	VH1 Video Collections
MYX	Star MYX	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX	Take 5	MYX Backtrax	MYX Fists	Mellow MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		OPM MYX Countdown		My MYX	OPM MYX	MYX Backtrax	Mellow MYX
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	Living Golf	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN			X Games X - Day1 LA, CA USA				Pool/Snooker Rack 'Em Up 4		UEFA Champs League Magazine Show	Sportscenter Asia	Soccer FIFA Fever	Table Tennis '05 Kilkenpen	World Snooker Trick Shot Masters '05				Sportscenter Asia		
Sports Plus											Tour De France								
Cinemax		Traveller (3:15PM)				Zids					American Crime			Scent Of A Woman					Money Talks (11:35PM)
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Wife Swap		HCA: The Fairytailor	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	Ladies Man	Just Cause		Wife Swap		Annie's Point			Regenesis (10:35PM)		Just Cause (11:25PM)
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	So Little Time	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Wonderful World Of Disney			So Little Time	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Discovery Channel		Body Work		Impossible Feats		Wild Tech		Carrier		Unsolved History				Wild Discovery		Zero Hour		Deadly Women	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock	Pet Alien	Atomic Betty	SD Gundam Force	Machine Robo-Rescue	Toonami: Beyblade V Force Marathon			Johnny Bravo	Time Squad	Thundercats	Pet Alien	Atomic Betty
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot/ Right On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Naturally Sadie	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Drake & Josh	Romeo	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Are You Afraid of the Dark?
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Moto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Food 911	Best Kept Hollywood Secrets		NY Fashion Week	Life & Style		Fine Living Special		Breathing Room	Genuine Article
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful	Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?		Buffy The Vampire Slayer	E Buzz	The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	Married To The Kellys	Still Standing	Yes Dear	Becker	Wonderfalls		Friends	Married To The Kellys
AXN		Next Action Star	Worst Case Scenario			30 Seconds To Fame		The Legend Of Condor Hero	The Legend Of Condor Hero	The Amazing Race V		Now See This	Now See This	Fear Factor (Season V)		Lost			
JackTV		South Park	Street Smarts	Wwe Heat		WWE Velocity		Cheat	Just For Laughs	Mad TV		Sweat Spot	Comedy Central Presents	Shortbus Watching Shortbus	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Blue Collar TV	Banzai	Joe Schmo Show	
ETC		Complete Savages	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Friends	Will & Grace	The O.C.		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		ET Weekend		For Love Or Money	
HBO	My Little Eye (2:45PM)			Undefeated (4:15PM)			Superbabies: Baby Geniuses 2 (5:45PM)			Taking Lives (7:15 PM)				Big Fish				Detonator (11:05PM)	
Star Movies			Unshackled				Calendar Girls (5:20PM)			That Thing You Do! (7:10 PM)		Girl, Interrupted				Double Impact (11:05PM)			
Cinema One		Himala				Bagong Buwan				Di Que Si				Sabel		Boy Chico, Hushhin Bon Tumbling			
EWTN	The Church And The Poor-Building Bridges	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Benediction And Devotion Encore	Faith Factory A	Image Of God	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Threshold Of Hope Encore		Sunday Night Live With Fr. Groeschel		Daily Mass		Angelus (8:15 PM)	Holy Spirit In The Church	St. Matthew Evangelist Of The Church	Getting God's Help	Catholic Compass	

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'Old' Agassi keeps going in US Open

NEW YORK—For an old guy with a creaky back, Andre Agassi still has the moves.

He gave the adoring US Open crowd another treat Saturday, overcoming big-hitting Tomas Berdych with a 3-6, 6-1, 6-4, 7-6 (2) victory. The fans were on their feet as soon as Berdych's backhand sailed over the baseline to end the match, and a beaming Agassi clapped his racket.

AGASSI: Pretty good

"I had a little bit more in me, which is good. I felt pretty good," he said. "I get to come back one more day, how about that?"

Agassi played his first US Open way back in 1986, a few weeks before Berdych turned 1. Since then, he's won eight Grand Slam titles, lost his hair and gone from a brash rebel to a mature family man. His old rivals, guys like Pete Sampras, Michael Chang and Jim Courier, have long since retired, and Agassi has no idea how much longer his back will let him play.

But he hasn't lost his love for the game. And, as the fans showed Saturday, they haven't lost their love for him.

Agassi looked like a 35-year-old father of two in the first set, mis-hitting some shots by a second or two. He's always been able to move his opponents around with his ferocious backhand, but this time it was Berdych who had him on the run. *AP*

VOLKSWAGEN

Goosen routs field, seals 6-shot victory

BEIJING—Retief Goosen underlined his status as a 'Big Five' golfer with a scintillating six-shot victory over US Open champion Michael Campbell in the Volkswagen Masters-China tournament on Sunday.

Turning at seven-under, the double Major-winner finished with a magnificent eight-under-par 64, matching the course record he set in the first round of the $300,000 Asian Tour event at Jinghua Golf Club.

Filipino Gerald Rosales fired a 73 and finished tied for 24th to 29th places with a four-round total of 285.

The wire-to-wire victory was the world No. 5's 23rd international win and second of the year after the US PGA International just four weeks ago.

Campbell, who trailed the South African by just one shot going into the final day, could only muster a 69 in hot and sunny conditions at the par-72 course.

Chinese star Zhang Lian Wei eagled a bunker-shot on the 12th to finish third at 11-under, overtaking David Bransdon of Australia who was one over for the day and finished fourth.

Two more Australians, Adam Blyth and Gary Simpson, finished at nine-under for a share of fifth. *AFP*

re lift RP karatekas

omen's kumite; Marna YDKA in the -53kg nite; and Noel Espinosa men's individual kata. ir 5-gold, 1-silver, 5- l haul, the 10-member erged second overall to ich fielded a full team.

Carol Lim of AAK-Ate- e silver medal in the ividual kata.

e medalists were Nor- Montalvo of AAK Jose ity in the +55 kg men's kumite; Bonifacio "Brandy" Mariano in the men's open weight; Joey Pabillore in the +75kg men's kumite; Rolando Lagman of SKI in the -65kg men's kumite and the men's kumite team of Sonny Montalvo, Gerardo Anonas, Brandy Mariano, Revie Sani, Rolando Lagman, Hanifi Sani and Sugar Ray Metante in the men's team kumite.

The team was coached by Juan Carlos "Chino" Veguillas and Victoria Pabillore, who co-coach for the two Pabillore athletes.

NBA Infusion ball hits it big

THE FILIPINO basketball fans' search for the "perfectly inflated ball" is over with the Spalding NBA Infusion basketball.

Introduced in 2001, the Spalding NBA Infusion has built-in micro pumps that allow players to inflate or deflate their basketball at any time without the need for separate pumps or needles.

Proline Sportscenter, the local distributor of NBA Spalding balls, backboards and gear, said the Spalding Infusion has been a hit to Filipinos who were always craving for the latest technology.

Infusion basketballs are available in leather and rubber models. Spalding NBA Infusion is the first basketball in the market to feature a self-contained air control mechanism. To add air, simply unlock the Infusion dual action micro-pump to pump air into the ball. To release air, simply depress the pump stem until proper air pressure is achieved. When completed, the micro-pump is locked into position, and the ball is ready for play.

Spalding NBA Infusion went through months of testing period for ball durability, rebound performance and overall playability in compliance with the the NBA's stringent product performance specifications.

Araneta Center Leisure Guide...

CINEMA SCHEDULES

Gateway CINEPLEX 10
LEVEL 4, GATEWAY MALL
ONLY P99 ADMISSION
P120 RESERVED SEATS
GLOBE PLATINUM P249 / P299
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX
FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555

THE DUKES OF HAZZARD 1:50 / 4:25 / 7:00 / 9:35	GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA SKY HIGH 1:15 / 3:50 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD 6:25 / 9:00
SKY HIGH 1:50 / 4:25 / 7:00 / 9:35	CINDERELLA MAN 1:00 / 3:45 / 6:30 / 9:15
THE CAVE 1:35 / 4:10 / 6:45 / 9:20	SKELETON KEY 1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40
LONGEST YARD 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30	THE GREAT RAID 1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:00
THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00	MUST LOVE DOGS 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20

ALI MALL CINEMAS

1	CINDERELLA MAN 11:45 / 2:30 / 5:15 / 8:00	4	THE DUKES OF HAZZARD 12:15 / 2:50 / 5:25 / 8:00
2	THE CAVE 12:50 / 3:25 / 6:00 / 8:35	5	SKY HIGH 12:15 / 2:50 / 5:25 / 8:00
3	THE LONGEST YARD 12:45 / 3:15 / 5:45 / 8:15		DOLBY DIGITAL SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS

NCAA CHEERING COMPETITION *September 7, Wednesday 2pm*	THE CASCADES ENCORE *September 9 Friday 8pm*

LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
9th floor Shangrila Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633.2227 / 8337851 loc. 171

1 (DOLBY)	EIGA SAI 2005
2 (DOLBY)	THE CAVE PG13
3 (DOLBY)	SKY HIGH GP
4 (DOLBY)	THE DUKES OF HAZZARD PG13
PREMIERE	
(DOLBY)	THE LONGEST YARD PG13

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	THE GREAT RAID
2 (DOLBY)	CINDERELLA MAN (SNEAK PREVIEW)
3 (DOLBY)	CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 GOLD (DTS)	DUKE OF HAZZARD
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	THE CAVE
6 GOLD (SDDS)	LONGEST YARD
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	SKY HIGH
8 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	VALIANT
9 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
10 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	SKELETON KEY

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	CINDERELLA MAN (SNEAK PREVIEW)
2 (DOLBY)	DUKE OF HAZZARD
3 (DOLBY)	SKY HIGH
4 (DOLBY)	THE CAVE

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	CINDERELLA MAN (SNEAK PREVIEW)
2 (DTS)	TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
3 (DOLBY)	SHAOLIN VS' STONE WARRIOR
4	SKY HIGH

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
2 (DOLBY)	SKY HIGH
3 (DTS)	SHAOLIN VS' STONE WARRIOR
4	CINDERELLA MAN (SNEAK PREVIEW)

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	THE EYE INFINITY
2	PUSANG GALA
3 (DOLBY)	WEDDING CRASHER

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	PUSANG GALA
2	EVIL EYE
3 (DOLBY)	ARAHAN
4 (DTS)	IF ONLY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1	MUST LOVE DOG
2	CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
3 (DOLBY)	ARAHAN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1	DUKE OF HAZZARD
2	THE CAVE
3	SKY HIGH
4	CINDERELLA MAN (SNEAK PREVIEW)

Blue Wave
MARCQUINTON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY)	SKY HIGH
2 (DOLBY)	DUKE OF HAZZARD
3 (DOLBY)	CINDERELLA MAN (SNEAK PREVIEW)
4 (DOLBY)	THE CAVE

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 (DOLBY)	SKY HIGH
2	CAVE
3	RESERVED
4	PASAWAY
5	DUKE OF HAZZARD

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

1	RESERVED
2	RESERVED
3	KAULAYAW
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	SKY HIGH
5	CAVE

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994

1	LAMAT
2	D' ANOTHERS
3	RESERVED
4	RESERVED
5 (DOLBY)	SKY HIGH
6	CAVE

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(LAS PINAS) tel. 8735004

1	CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2	

MARRIETTA
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	MONSTER IN LAW
2	CAMPUS GHOST STORY
3	RESERVED
4	SA PAGITAN NG LANGIT

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	SKY HIGH
2	THE CAVE
3	BALAHIBONG PUSA

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1	THE GREAT RAID
2	BEWITCHED

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY DS)	SKY HIGH
2	THE EVIL EYE
3	CINDERELLA MAN (SNEAK PREVIEW)
4	SHAOLIN VS' EVIL DEAD

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1	THE EVIL EYE
2	CINDERELLA MAN (SNEAK PREVIEW)
3 (DOLBY)	SKY HIGH
4 (DTS)	MUST LOVE DOGS

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1	INSOMIA D/W RING OF NIVELUNGS
2	ARAHAN
3 (DOLBY)	EYE INFINITY
4	WEDDING CRASHERS D/W POLICE STORY

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2	PUSANG GALA

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	THUNDER MISSION
2	ITLOG
3	HINOG SA PILIT
4 (DTS)	PASAWAY

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	SKY HIGH
2	CINDERELLA MAN (SNEAK PREVIEW)
3 (DTS)	SHAOLIN VS' STONE WARRIOR
4	SAGAD
5	TRUTH ABOUT LOVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	ARAHAN
2	SHUT UP AND KISS ME
3	KALAPATI SA GABI
4	MUST LOVE DOGS

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	SAPLOT
2	BENEATH LOCKNES

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OPENS SEPT. 14

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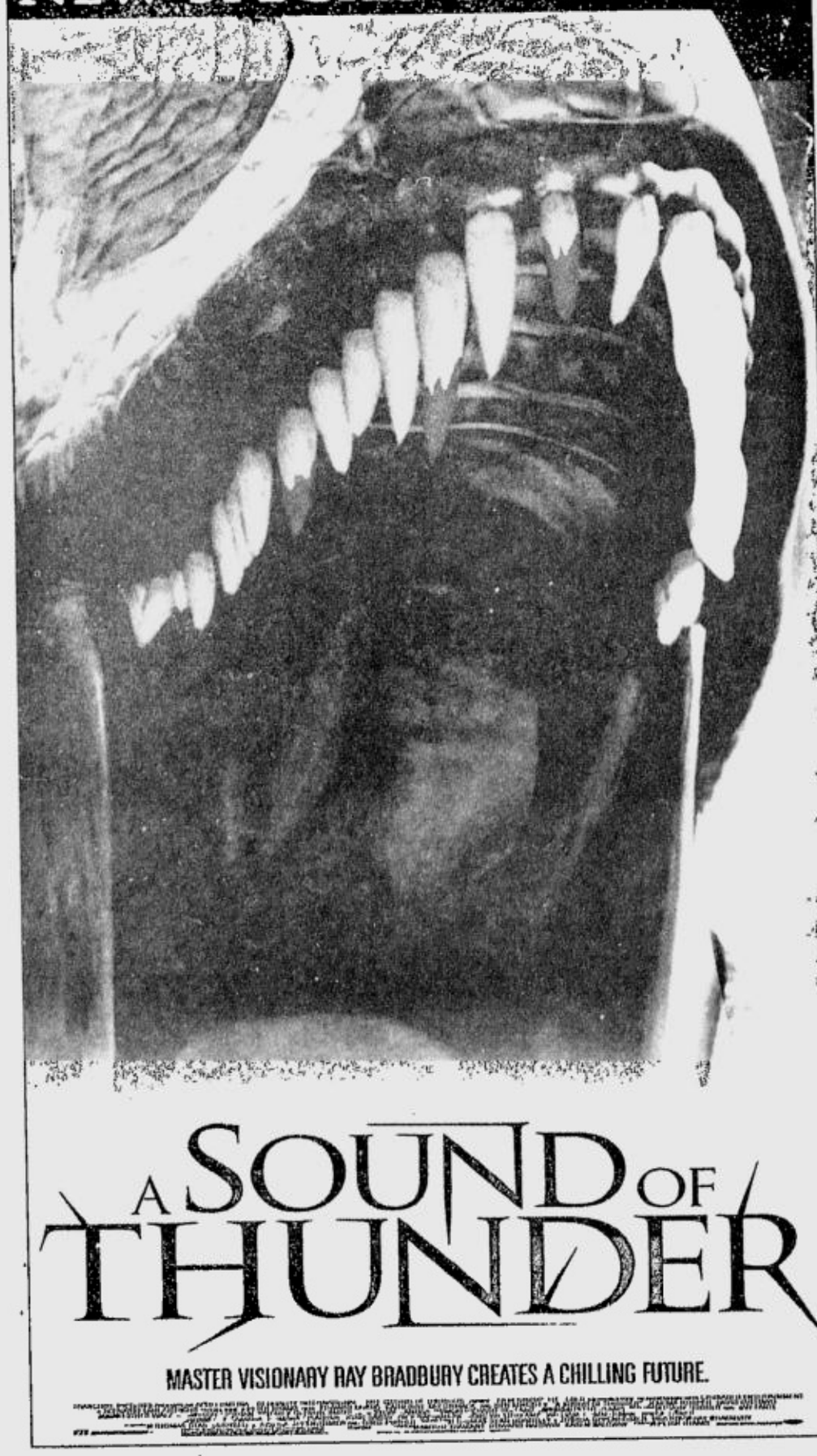

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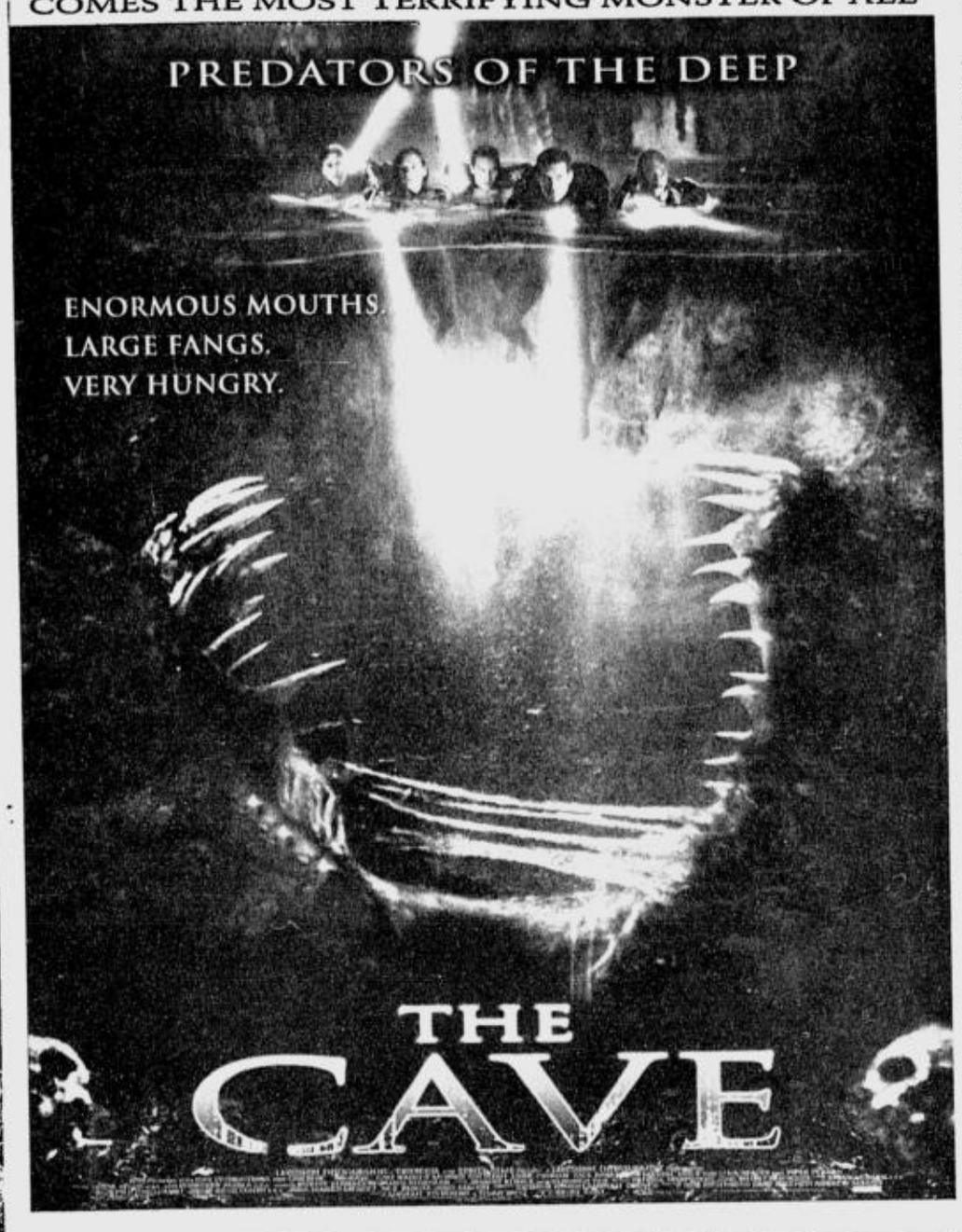
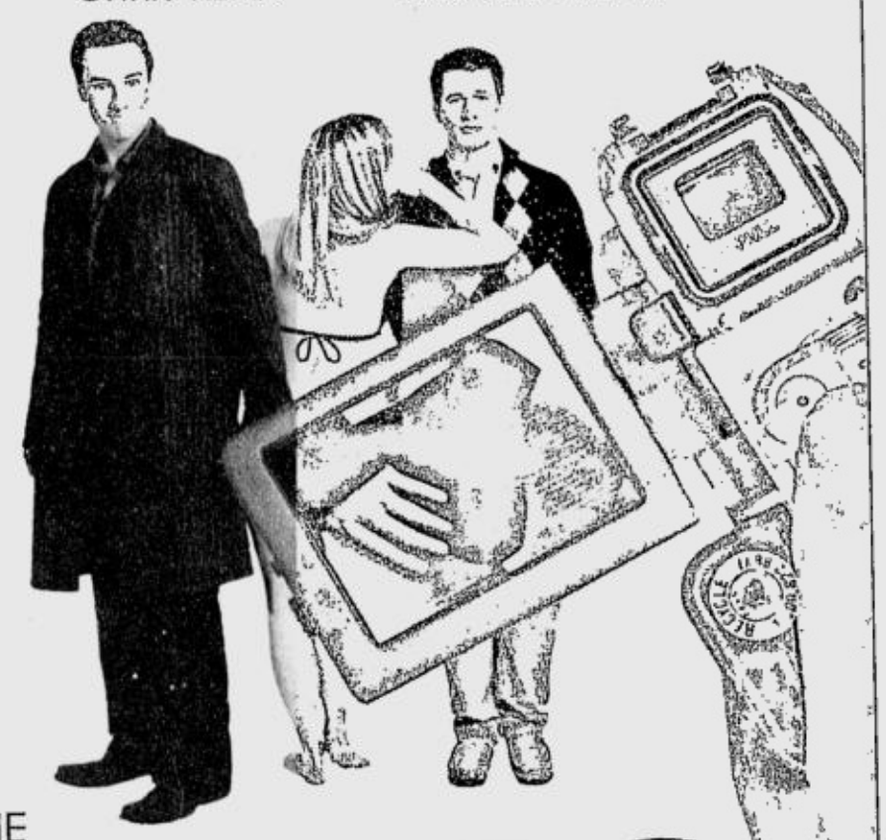


IN THE TRADITION OF "AMERICAN PIE" COMES THE GROSS-OUT COMEDY OF THE YEAR.

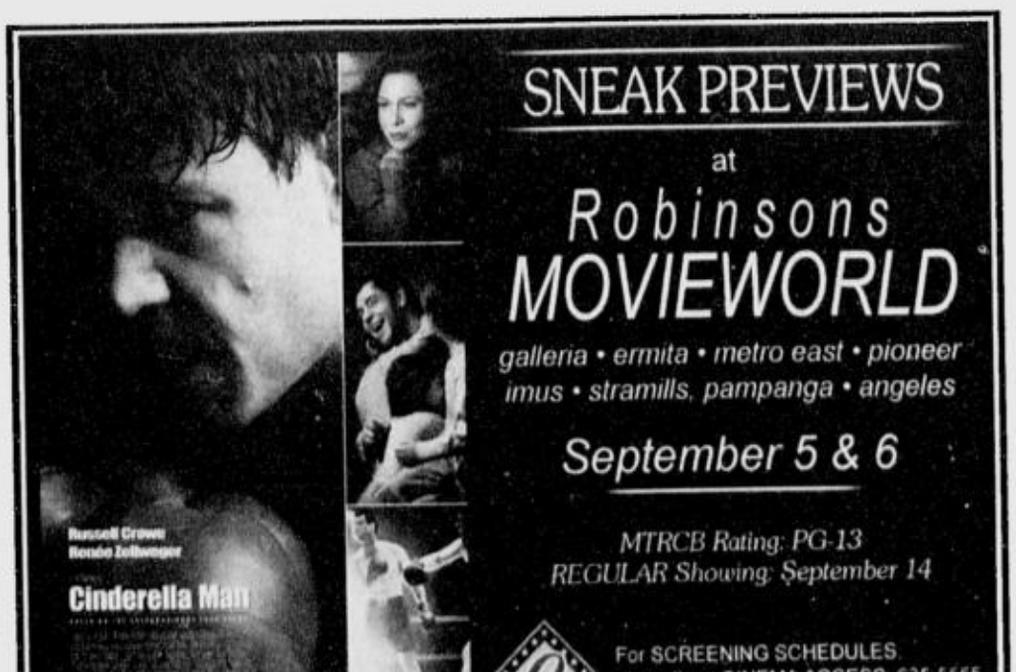
CHRIS KLEIN BRENDAN FEHR



THE LONG WEEKEND

TWO BROTHERS. ONE WEEKEND. AND A WHOLE LOT OF SEX.

OPENS SEPTEMBER 7



Lions down Stars

BAGUIO CITY—Sharpshooters Edbert Ton and Melvin Fontanilla combined for nine of Baguio's 10 triples while seldom-used Renato Carino made big plays down the stretch to power the Lions past the Cagayan de Oro Stars, 97-90, Saturday in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship at the University of Baguio gym here.

Ton scored 23 points while Fontanilla added 21 to help the Lions buck the 29-point explosion of CdO playmaker Donald Tadena.

The Lions posted their fourth win in 12 games in the tourney supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Sunbolt Sports Drink, Accel, Molten, Nature's Spring, Far Eastern Insurance, Skygo Motorcycles, Sirlitz, Hapee Toothpaste, Dewfoam, KSK Food Products (Boy Bawang), Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.

Action resumes today at the Tagaytay Sports Center with the Stars facing the Cavite Insurers at 6 p.m.

Generals win, cop solo lead

JESTER Ebuen scored on a pass by Carlo Castillo in the endgame, sending defending champion Emilio Aguinaldo College to an 81-79 overtime win over La Salle-Dasmariñas in the fourth Universities and Colleges Athletic Association (UCAA) men's basketball tournament.

Coming off the bench in the last three minutes, Ebuen shattered a 79-all count with 26.7 seconds left, allowing the EAC Generals to snap the Patriots' winning streak after four games at the La Salle-Dasmariñas gym in Cavite.

The Generals snatched the solo lead with their 4-1 record.

Rey Burgos fired 13 points for Asian Colleges of Science and Technology as it waylaid Philippine School of Business Administration, 73-52.

National College of Business and Arts bested Olivarez College, 83-74.

Jins enter Korea tilt

THE PETRON national taekwondo team is competing in the 2005 Korea Open international championships in Seoul, Korea.

"The results will help us evaluate our athletes and eventually finalize our roster for the 23rd SEA Games late this year," said Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert N. Aventajado before his wards flew to Seoul Saturday for the event that will run up to Thursday. Seventy countries, including Korea, Chinese Taipei, United States, China, France and Spain are seeing action. The RP team is composed of 16 athletes and three coaches.

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

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www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 THE LONGEST YARD • THX
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

2 SKY HIGH
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

3 CINDERELLA MAN
Sneak Preview

4 THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS
12:00 2:20 4:50 7:20 9:50

5 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

6 THE CAVE
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

7 D' ANOTHERS
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

8 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00

9 THE GREAT RAID
12:00 2:20 5:00 7:40 10:00

10 MUST LOVE DOGS
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

ERMITA 538-7809 to 12

1 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

2 EVIL EYES
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

3 CINDERELLA MAN
Sneak Preview

4 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50

5 THE LONGEST YARD
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

6 SKY HIGH
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

7 THE CAVE
10:20 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:20 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 EVIL EYES
1:40 4:00 6:20 9:00

2 THE CAVE
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

3 CINDERELLA MAN
Sneak Preview

4 THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS
12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00

5 THE LONGEST YARD
1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

6 SKY HIGH
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

7 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

8 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 D' ANOTHERS
2 EVIL EYES
3 CAMPUS GHOST STORIES
4 COACH CARTER

PIONEER 687-5378

1 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
2 SKY HIGH
3 THE CAVE
4 CINDERELLA MAN Sneak Preview

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Robinsons Movieworld
STA. ROSA

August 31 - Sept. 06

MTRCB Rating: R-18
Strictly for adults only
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STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 SKY HIGH
2 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
3 SHANGHAI LILY
4 SHAOLIN VS. STONE WARRIOR
5 CINDERELLA MAN Sneak Preview

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 ARAHAN
2 MUST LOVE DOGS
3 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 WEDDING CRASHERS

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS
2 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
3 CRASH
4 BEWITCHED

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 CINDERELLA MAN Sneak Preview
2 MUST LOVE DOGS
3 SKY HIGH
4 EVIL EYES

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS
2 THE LONGEST YARD
3 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
4 SKY HIGH
5 CINDERELLA MAN Sneak Preview

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

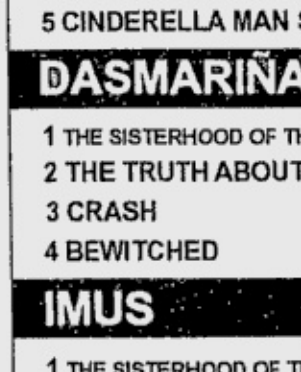
1 CINDERELLA MAN Sneak Preview
2 SKY HIGH
3 MUST LOVE DOGS
4 BEWITCHED
5 VALIANT
6 THE GREAT RAID

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 THE GREAT RAID
2 WEDDING CRASHERS
3 BEWITCHED
4 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
5 CRASH
6 MGA PUSANG GALA

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 THE GREAT RAID
2 BEWITCHED
3 MGA PUSANG GALA
4 THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS



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At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
BPI's Real 0% Christmas Wishlist Installment Madness September 7 to 25, 2005	The Magic of Curtis September 9 to 11, 2005	IECEP-VRC's Regional ECE Quiz Bowl September 10, 2005

AYALA GREENBELT

Catch GREG BEHRENDT
Sex And The City consultant
and author of the #1 best seller He's Just Not That Into You
September 15 & 16

GREENBELT 1 Onstage AYALA CENTER

REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents
The Taming Of The Shrew
at REP's GLOBE THEATER
Sept. 2, 3, 4, 8,10, 13, 23, 24 & 25

Ayala MUSEUM

Registration for Art Workshops now on-going at Ayala Museum
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29.
Online registration at www.ayalamuseum.org

AYALA CINEMAS

AYALA CINEMAS

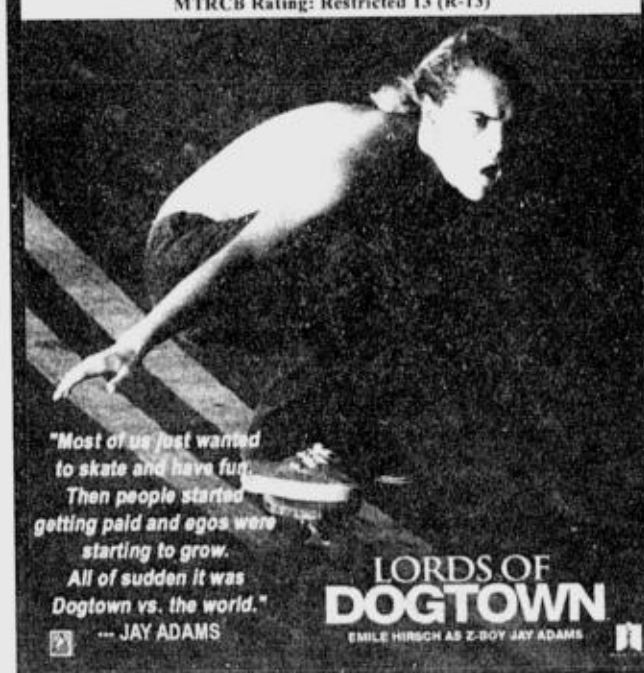
Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

THX

Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729 7777

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 SKY HIGH	2 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD	3 CINDERELLA MAN	4 THE CAVE
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 CINDERELLA MAN	2 SKY HIGH	3 THX THE CAVE 11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD	5 SKELETON KEY	6 SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS	7 THE LONGEST YARD
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 CINEMANILA ADVANCE SCREENING For screening schedule, call 750-4180 to 81		2 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20,9:40	
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE DUKES OF HAZZARD 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX THE CAVE 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 CINDERELLA MAN 2:45, 5:30, 8:15, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE LONGEST YARD 2:00, 4:15, 6:30,8:45, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 SKY HIGH 2:20, 4:30, 6:40, 8:50, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX THE CAVE		2 SKY HIGH	
	3 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD	4 CINDERELLA MAN	5 THE LONGEST YARD	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 THE CAVE	2 MUST LOVE DOGS	3 WEDDING CRASHERS	4 YEAR OF THE YAO

OPENS SEPTEMBER 7 EXCLUSIVELY AT AYALA CINEMAS
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)



ADVANCE SCREENING

Be among the first to watch at regular admission prices

Sept. 5 & 6

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
GLORIETTA 1 & 4
GREENBELT 3
MARKET! MARKET!

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Russell Crowe Renee Zellweger
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Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service text hotline: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm
Greenbelt - 757 4853; from 11am to 12mn

Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324

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2. The Longest Yard
3. Valiant
4. Sky High
5. The Cave

EVENTS! EVENTS!

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Market! Market! Activity Center

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- Want to meet Curtis? Present P500 worth of receipts or buy 2 movie tickets and present at the customer service booth and be one of the lucky 100 customers to meet and greet Curtis in person!
- Marvel at the grand fireworks display after the show on Sept. 16, in front of the Playzone area!

United Auctioneers, Inc.

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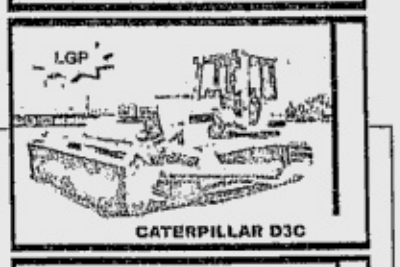
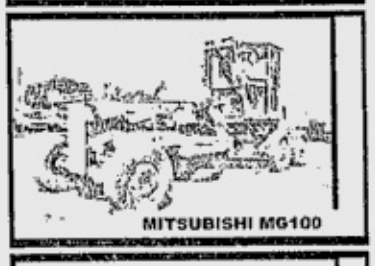


CATERPILLAR D3C

TCM 75B


MITSUBISHI MG100

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AUCTION DATES:
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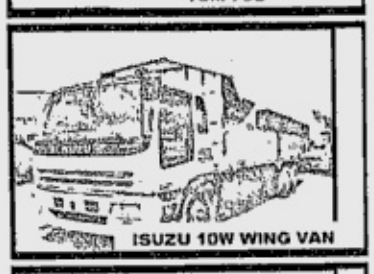
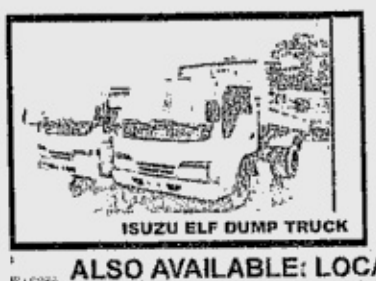
28, 29 & 30, 2005


ISUZU 10W WING VAN

ISUZU 10W MIXER TRUCK

FUSO FK SELF LOADER W/ CRANE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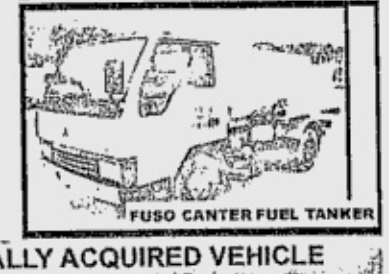
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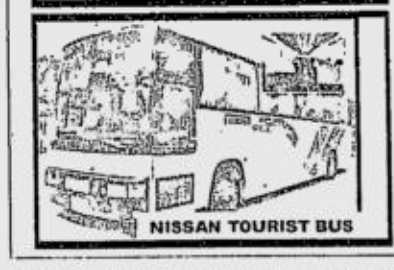
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Azarcon gets ticket to Milo 42K finals

BUTUAN CITY—Genovevo Azarcon Jr. traveled to this city on a one-way fare from his hometown of Cantilan, Surigao del Sur. Now he's got P10,000 in his pocket and assured of a longer, and possibly more rewarding, trip to Metro Manila for the finals of the 29th National Milo Marathon.

Azarcon and Mary Ann Dojo yesterday ruled the Caraga region elimination run of the Milo Marathon here that finished at the Butuan City Sports Complex.

Azarcon led from start to finish in capturing his second straight 21K leg championship, completing the 21-km course in one hour, 15 minutes and 57 seconds.

"Kailangan kong manalo dahil wala akong pamasahe pauwi sa amin (I needed to win because I didn't have the fare for the trip home)," said the 25-year-old Azarcon.

Rolly Jaoud finished second in 1:18:22, with 19-year-old Jaime Canillo (1:19:31), a cousin of former Milo Marathon National champion Crisanto Canillo, coming in third.

Dojo was also virtually unchallenged in topping the distaff side of this foot race held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel-Manila, Adidas, Cebu Pacific, Smart Kid, Department of Tourism, Addict Mobile Prepaid and Powerbar. She clocked 1:43:29.

Twenty-year-old Mary Rose Arman followed Dojo home, finishing runner-up for the second consecutive year with a time of 1:51:27.

The top three finishers in the men's and women's 21K races qualified to the National Finals slated Oct. 9 in Metro Manila.

Butuan City Mayor Democrito Plaza fired the gun that flagged off the 3,025 runners in the 3K, 5K and 21K events.

In the men's 5K fun run, Alson Ceralvo (17:16) edged Johnny Espara (17:17) to claim the men's title.

Criscel's sisters Katt and Shanalie Aclo dominated the women's 5K race. Kat took top honors with a time of 23:55 while Shanalie settled for third in 27:55. Finishing second was Rejie Benjamin (26:41).

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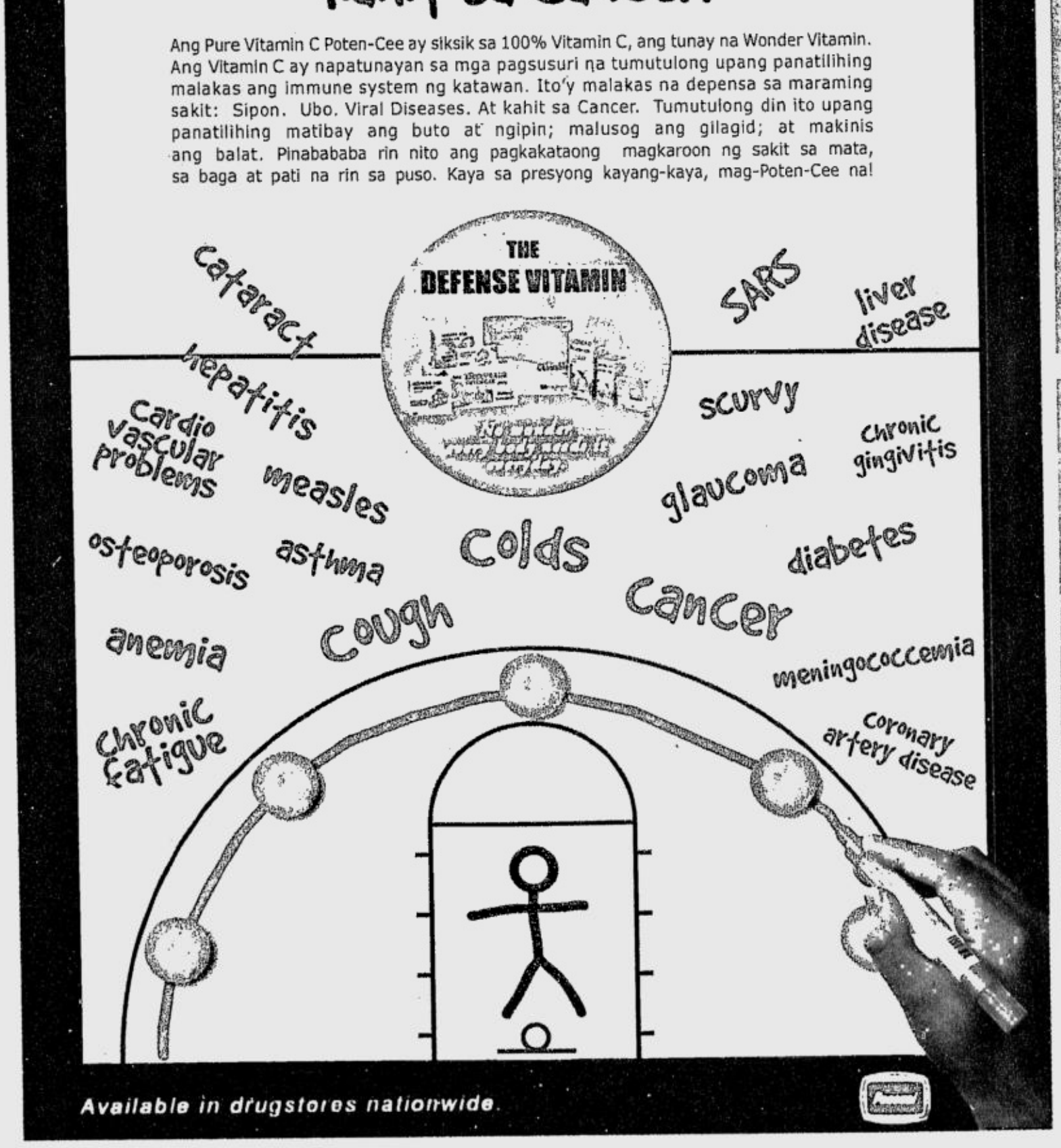

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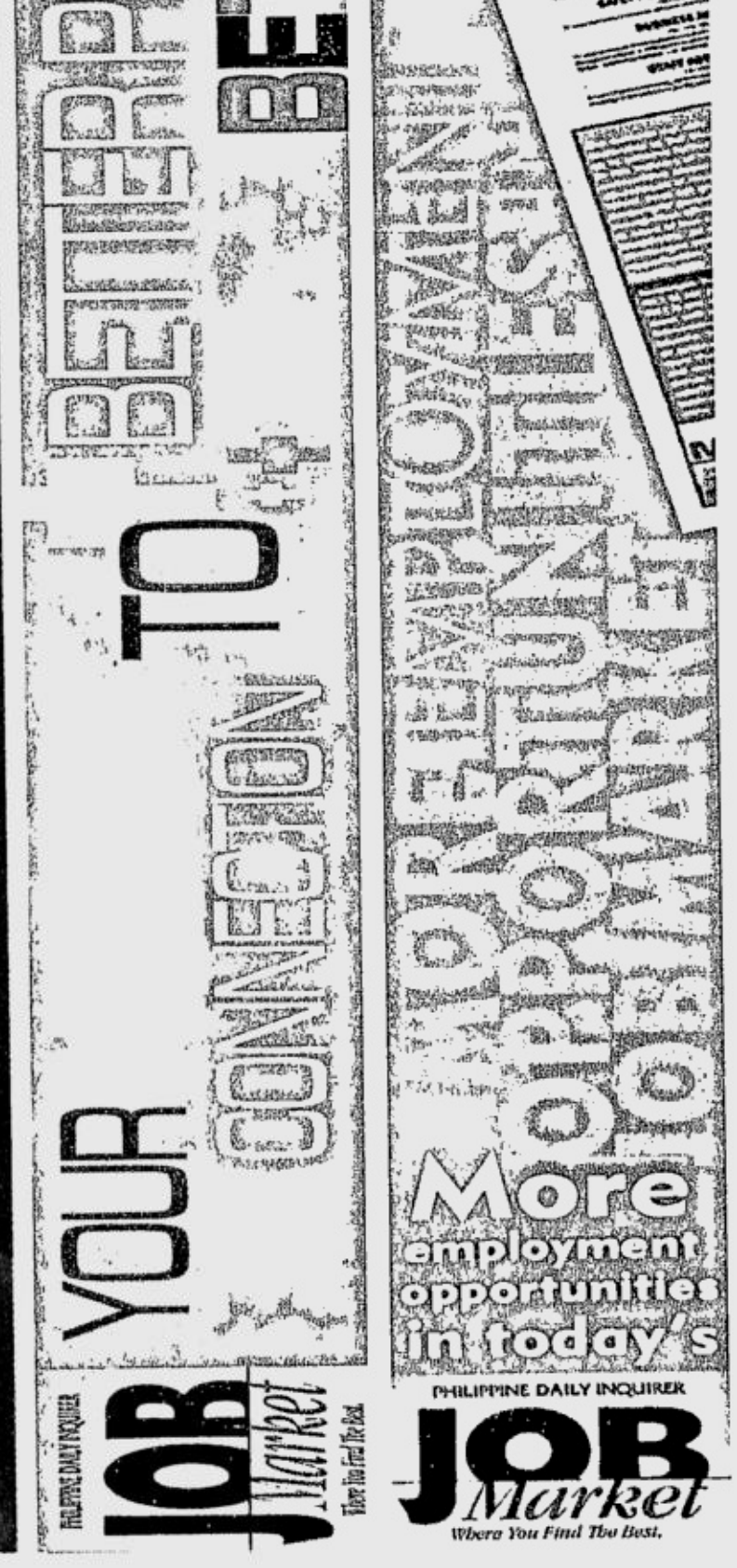

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Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

ENTERTAINMENT

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Jules says ABS-CBN 'insulted' Assunta

... and by the way, they're not splitting up.

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Former Negros Occidental Rep. Julio "Jules" Ledesma on Friday said his wife, actress Assunta da Rossi, was leaving ABS-CBN because she had been subjected to "disgusting" treatment.

Ledesma, a cousin of ABS-CBN president Gabby Lopez, said the network had not fulfilled the terms of his wife's previous contract, and recently "foisted ... a diminished contract" on her.

This, the ex-solon said, despite the fact that it was Lopez who "aggressively pursued" Assunta's crossover from rival network GMA 7. "They chased us," Ledesma insisted. He said the final decision to transfer was made by Assunta.

While with ABS-CBN in 2003, he noted, his wife's income rose by less than 30 percent. Last year, he added, Assunta did not get a fresh contract, but the network assured them that a contract was "only ministerial."

Assunta's gross income for 2004 was 80 percent less than her 2003 gross income, Ledesma continued—some 35 percent of her 2002 gross income at GMA 7 and not even enough to pay her 2003 income taxes.

Ledesma said they sought, but were refused, an audience with network officials. Then in February, they got the "diminished" contract.

He recounted: "I said [it was] okay ... since they [were] financially hurting. A week later, we found out that [other] stars of similar marquee status ... had not suffered [similar] diminution. Assunta [even while knowing] that she had grounds to seek restitution ... chose to let it go" at the time.

No money woes

Ledesma said ABS-CBN also humiliated his wife in the billing and media announcements for the telenovela "Vietnam Rose." The whole cast was mentioned, he said, but Assunta was not. Considering that his wife was the youngest-ever winner of the Urian Best Actress award [for "Hubog," 2001], he said, that was clearly an insult.

He and his wife were likewise peeved by gossip that their marriage was on the rocks, Ledesma said (they wed in March 2004). He said he was particularly "incensed" by allegations that they were having money problems.

He was wealthy enough to take care of his wife, said Ledesma—who belongs to an old rich Negrense clan that is into shipping, real estate and sugar.

Now that Assunta was free, her husband said, they could go to Italy for the honeymoon they never had.

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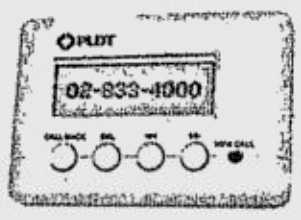

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A not-so-trivial pursuit

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

A VERITABLE treasure trove overflowing with show biz "facts, feats, tales and trivia" is "A Movie Album Quizbook," launched early this year.

The book is the fruit of research by an inveterate movie fan, who embarked on the project clearly with other star-struck souls in mind.

In his introduction, Jessie B. Garcia—teacher by profession and movie buff by avocation—says the idea for this book, his fifth on show biz, came to him in 1982. He recalls that fellow film aficionado T.D. Agcaoili encouraged him to whip up a volume on "things that will never make it in a dry-as-dust . . . straight historical account of Tagalog movies."

YESTERDAY

Sifting through the 400-plus-page book yields not a few gems:

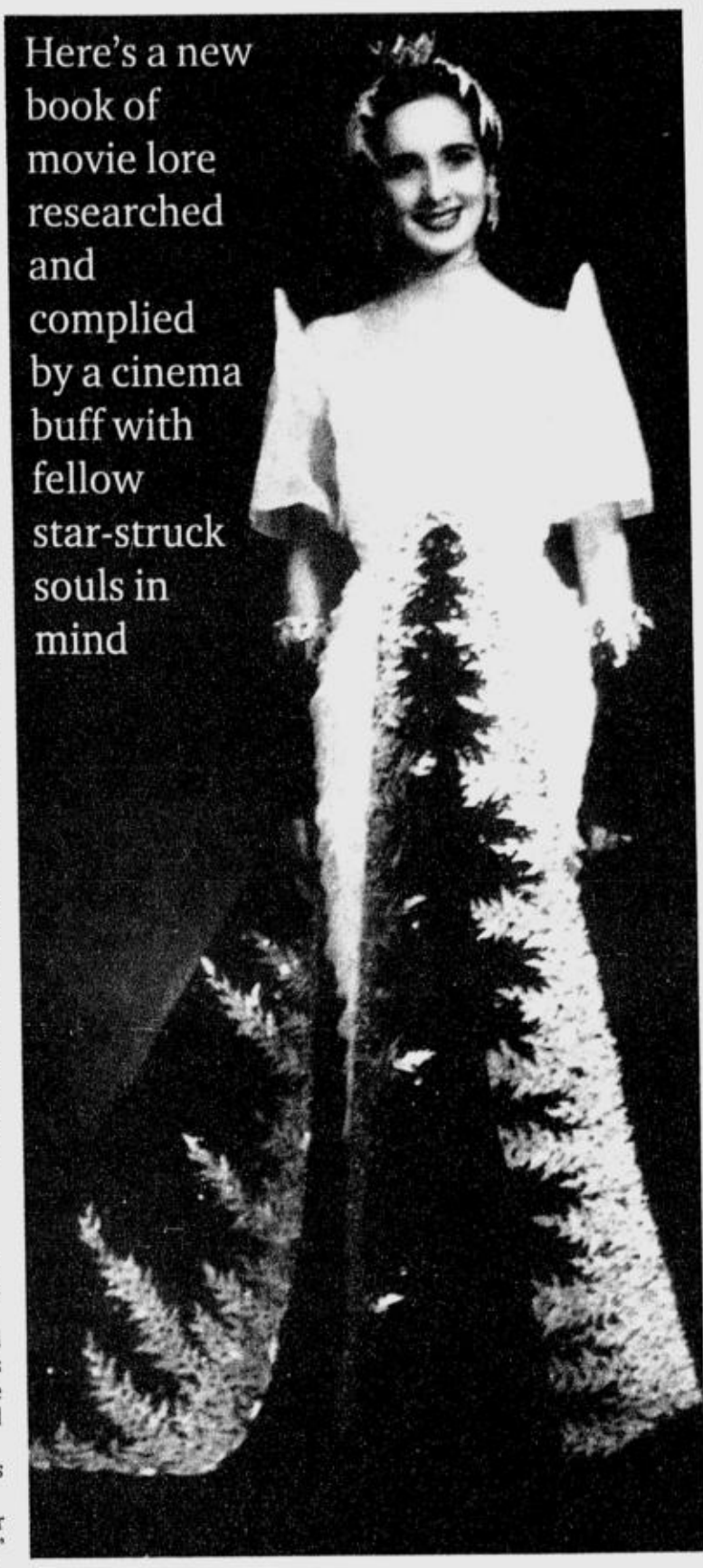
- The first underwater kissing scene in Philippine movies was between Fernando Poe Sr. and Rosa del Rosario in "Zamboanga," 1937. "Zamboanga" was also the first Pinoy film to be shot in full color. It was processed in Hollywood, with no less than Frank Capra ("It's a Wonderful Life") as editor and supervisor.
- The first radio play that crossed over to the big screen was Lina Flor's "Gulong ng Palad," 1950. It starred Jose Padilla Jr. and Arsenia Francisco.
- Leila Morena was the first local actress to produce a film, "Salome," 1952.
- The lead star of "Ifugao," Efren Reyes, was the first Pinoy to win Best Actor at the second Asian Film Festival held in Singapore, 1955.
- The first Pinay to bring home the Best Actress prize from the Asian Film Festival was Charito Solis, for "Dahil sa Isang Bulaklak," 1967. La Chato was also the first local actress to headline a Japanese movie slated for international release—"Shaka" (later retitled "Buddha"), 1962.
- Lino Brocka scored a double whammy at the Cannes. His "Insiang" was the first Filipino film to be screened in the "Director's Fortnight" in 1976, and "Jaguar" was the first to be shown in the "Main Competition" in 1980. And how's this: Brocka actually considered hiring Imee Marcos as "Insiang," instead of Hilda Koronel.

Aside from these noteworthy "firsts," Garcia also compiled a number of facts that even some LVN, Premiere and Sampaguita stars would barely remember:

CARMEN Rosales flunked a screen test.

ROSA del Rosario was also a welder.

- In 1939, movie queen Carmen Rosales, already a radio star, flunked her LVN screen test because she had "no profile."
- The country's first "Darna," Rosa del Rosario, worked as a welder in Henry Kaiser's shipyard in the US during World War II. She was also the first Pinay to star in a Hollywood flick, "Border Bandits," 1946.
- Ruben Tagalog was not Tagalog; he was actually from La Paz, Iloilo.
- The zoom lens was invented by director Manuel Silos while doing "Victory Joe," 1946.
- The first Maria Clara Best Actress was Nena Cardenas, for "Doble Cara," 1950.



GLORIA ROMERO used Cely Bautista's voice for musicals.

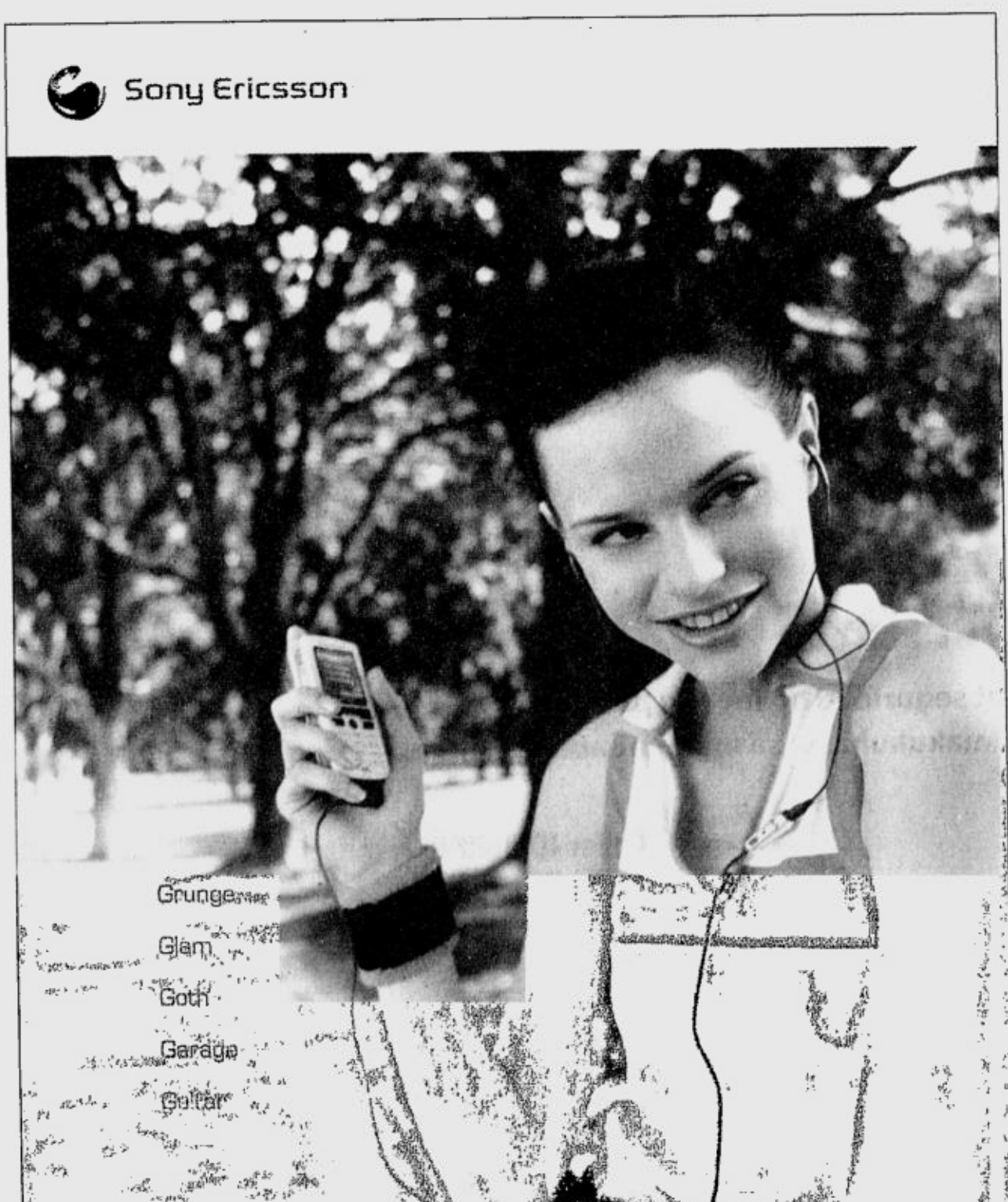
SUSAN ROCES was a child star.

- Anita Linda—Alice Lake in real life—shares her birth name with her paternal aunt—a Hollywood star and contemporary of Rudolph Valentino.
- Manuel Conde gave up his direction credit in "Genghis Khan" in favor of Lou Salvador Sr., because the latter agreed to completely shave off his head to play a Mongolian chieftain in that movie.
- Lilia Dizon was the first Pinay to win Best Actress in a foreign film fest—specifically the Cambodia Film Festival—for Lamberto Avellana's "Kandilerong Pilak," 1954. The same Avellana classic was also the first Pinoy film shown "Out of Competition" at the Cannes.
- Susan Roces first appeared as a child star in Jose Nepomuceno's "Mga Bituin ng Kinabukasan."
- Gloria Romero's singing voice in musicals was dubbed by pro Cely Bautista.
- Artemio Marquez wrapped up shooting "The Lucila Lalu Story," 1965, in four days, while Elwood Perez took over three years to finish "Bilangin ang mga Bituin sa Langit," 1989.

And for the ultimate piece of trivia:

The term "bakya" was coined by National Artist Lamberto Avellana, not as a pejorative term, but to describe the masses who watched movies at the Rialto and Dalisay, "lugging their *bayong* and *baon* and wearing wooden clogs."

(For copies of "A Movie Album Quizbook," contact Erehwon Books & Magazines, P.O. Box 331 Iloilo City.)



Ty's 'a little bit shocked'

By Fran Katigbak

TY TAYLOR is nowhere near losing his soulful groove after his elimination from "Rock Star: INXS."

The only African-American rocker finalist bade the show farewell Wednesday (Thursday in Manila). It was his third straight week in the bottom three rankings of the reality show aimed at finding a front man for Aussie band INXS.

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

The 36-year-old rocker hails from Montclair, New Jersey, where he grew up singing in a Baptist church until seventh grade. Listening to punk rock group The Clash first inspired him to combine the soul in gospel music and rock's raw energy.

Ty finished a drama and music course on full scholarship at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. He signed a six-year deal with band Dakota Moon under Elektra Records, and toured with Eric Clapton, Macy Gray, Tina Turner and Fiona Apple.

In an exclusive phone interview with INQUIRER Entertainment, Ty was forthright about his elimination.

How do you feel?

I'm a little bit shocked. It just seemed like it came out of left field. I got a standing ovation from them for my last two performances, and today I'm on my way home.

What are your plans?

Just to go home, enjoy and probably hang out with my friends a little bit. I've been offered a couple of record deals. I'm just going to pick up from where I left off, with the success that I've achieved from the show.

What direction do you intend to pursue musically?

The show cleared me up on what I need to do, which is to bridge the gap between rock and soul music.

There are bands with African-American front men, while the rest of the members are white. Are there any such bands that you see as examples of what you want to do?

Most of those bands are more straight-up rock 'n' roll. I'm talking a little more like Seal, but a little edgier, or like Lenny Kravitz, but a little worldlier.

HE HAD a career, he said, before "Rock Star."

We're shocked at your elimination. We have not yet seen today's "Rock Star" episode.

I think when you see it, you're going to be more shocked (laughs).

Among those eliminated so far, you're the only one who seems really comfortable with it.

I think it's ... because I had a big career before I came here.

Do you have an album or unfinished projects?

I have enough songs for two albums. I'm ready to go.

When can fans expect the new album?

My website, tytaylor.net, will be back up again in a week. Any new information will be posted there.

("Rock Star" airs Wednesday and Thursday mornings, with evening replays, on Star World.)

First batch of Anak TV seal winners announced

Nestor U. Torre

FOR MONTHS now, the Southeast Asia Foundation for Children and Television has been conducting viewership screenings and surveys all over the country, to determine what representatives of the viewing public feel are the programs that should get the foundation's prestigious and coveted Anak TV Seal this year.

Mag Cruz Hatol, SEAFCTV secretary general, has been spearheading the provincial visits, and is pleased to report that an initial 46 shows may now sport the Anak TV Seal, the mark of child-sensitive television.

The final tally will be announced in December. Meanwhile, the mid-year winners are:

ABS-CBN—"Art Jam," "Bear in the Big Blue House," "Madeline." NBN, "MMDA on the Road," "Network Forum," "Talk Ko 'To," "Business and Leisure," "GSIS."

ABC 5—"Art Is Kool," "Field Trip," "Tutubi Patrol," "Gourmet Everyday," "Island Flavors," "Kabataan News Network," "Mommy Academy," "Word Made Flesh."

GMA 7—"Dora, the Explorer," "Wish Ko Lang," "Art Angel," "Happy Tales," "At Your Service."

RPN 9—"Biyaheng Langit," "RPN Jr. News," "As Told by Ginger," "Asin at Ilaw."

ZOE—"Adyenda," "Diyos at Bayan," "The 700 Club." IBC, "A Time of Life," "Ang Bagong Entrepinoy," "Good Take." SBN, "Bagong Pinoy."

Studio 23—"Sineskwela," "Math Tinik," "7th Heaven," "Jimmy Neutron," "Team Explorer," "Gameplan," "Petko."

Net 25—"In Focus," "Arts 21, "Auto Motor Sports," "Convergence," "Euromaxx," "Convergence Reloaded, "The Planet." Call 3743739.

These mid-year awardees were determined by thousands of parents, educators, NGO heads, lay and religious people, youths, mediamen and businessmen in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

In the coming weeks, jury screenings are scheduled in Laoag, Vigan, Dumaguete, Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro, Davao, Legaspi, Tarlac and Baguio.

The yearend tally will be revealed in appropriate awards ceremonies at the Soka Gakkai Auditorium on Timog Avenue, QC.

The national derby has been running since April. The foundation's search is supported by Goldilocks, Columbia Foods, Negros Navigation, Cebu Pacific, Uni-President, Hallmark, PLDT, Del Monte and Coca Cola.

Some weeks ago, we joined the Anak TV team's sortie to the Visayas, and it was a real eye opener.

Both the team members and the jury members in the southern provinces were committed and hardworking, and the discussions after each sample show as screened were enthusiastic and insightful.

Clearly, many people now see the importance of fighting for balanced and responsible TV programming, particularly for vulnerable young viewers, so our TV channels should clean up their act before the viewing public forces them to.

We were particularly impressed with the screening session held on board a Negros Navigation vessel sailing from Tagbilaran, Bohol, to Manila.

Some 30 passengers gave up hours of their R&R time to help the foundation's Anak TV team determine which shows they felt were good viewing fare for children. With public involvement like that, the campaign for better TV shows has a good chance of succeeding.

Rachelle Gerodias

THE MCO Foundation and Equitable PCI Bank present the second concert in the MCO Arts Festival, featuring soprano **Rachelle Gerodias** and collaborating pianist **Najib Ismail** on Sept. 10 at the Francisco Santiago Hall. Call 8407000, local 2830.

Concert repertoire will include arias by **Handel** and **Puccini**, and songs by **Quitler** and **Antonio Molina**.

'Cinderella Man'

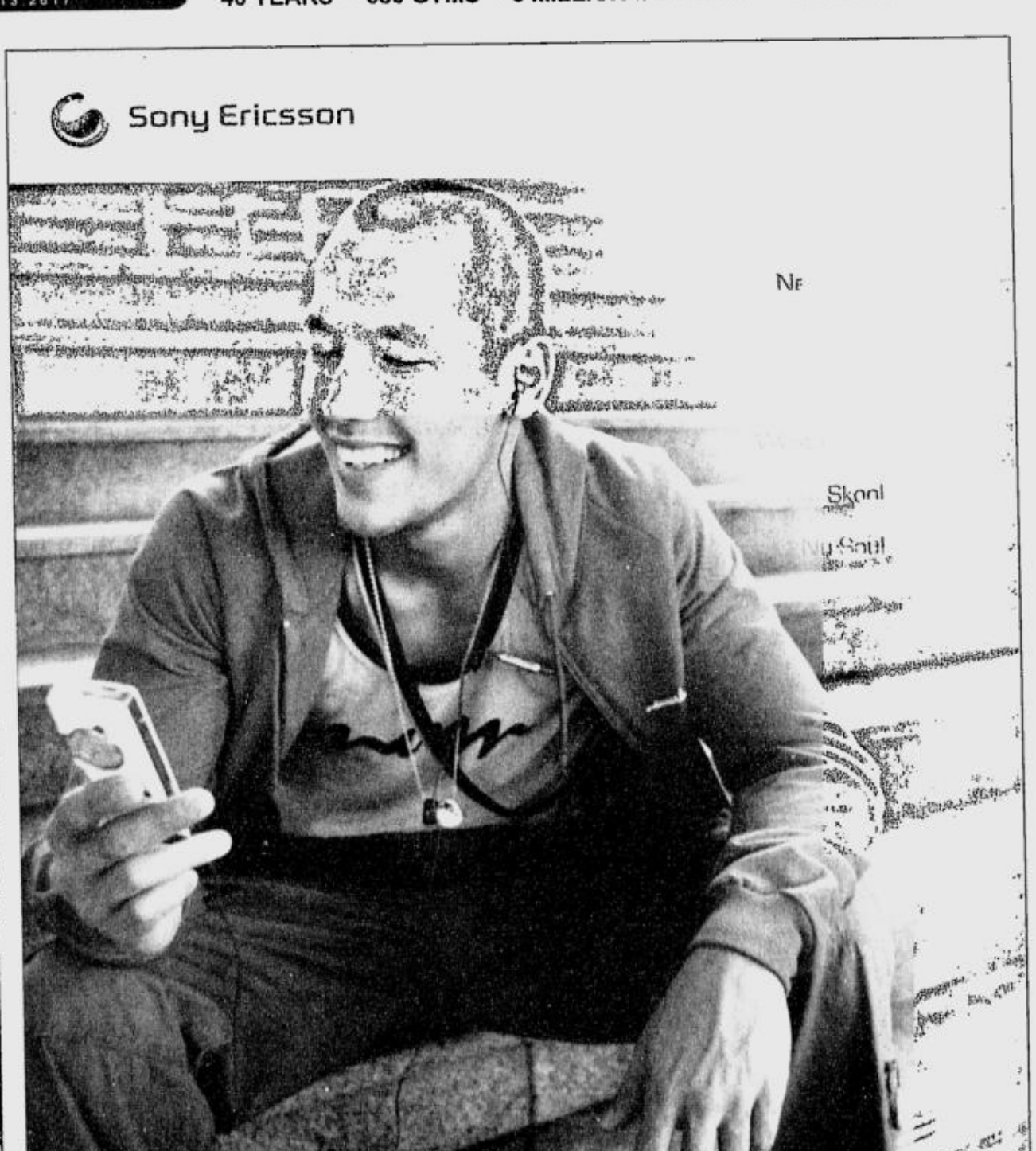
SNEAK previews of the inspiring drama, "Cinderalla Man," will be held today and tomorrow (Sept. 5 and 6) in selected theaters. The exceptional film features the unbeatable team-up of **Russell Crowe** and director **Ron Howard**.

RP's bet in Kazahsktan

LADINE Roxas

SINGER Ladine Roxas represents the Philippines again in the "Best of Voice of Asia Festival" in Kazakhstan ongoing until Sept. 7.

Ladine, 2001 Voice of Asia grand champion, will render three songs in the tilt. One of them is Vehnee Saturno's "Where There is Love." She joins 15 champions from around the world who have participated in the annual competition since it started in 1990. The showdown is a first in the festival's history. Other Filipino singers who won "Voice of Asia" are Geneva Cruz, Arnee Hidalgo, Jed Maddela and Sheryn Regis.



FEEDBACK

Proudly Pinoy

Congratulations to Jed Maddela and Rizza Navales (for winning at the World Championships of the Performing Arts in Hollywood)! We are proud of you guys!

Joel Andrade
Bacolod City

Dear Tiya Dely

Thanks for the piece on Tiya Dely Magpayo. Instantly, it took me back to my sweet childhood because Tiya Dely was my mother's favorite radio star. I could still recall her voice echoing in our old house in Cavite. This is a piece of good news from back home—a source of pride for us Pinoys who are now living and working abroad.

Genesis Rodriguez, British Columbia, Canada

'Big Brother'

We hope people will remain vigilant on the dangers of "Pinoy Big Brother."

Michael Basilio
UP Village, Quezon City

Agree!

"Pinoy Big Brother" should be transferred to another time slot because skimpy outfits are simply not suitable for primetime viewing.

Bea Bigo
Iloilo City

VARNISHED bookshelf holds volumes of encyclopedia that Kitchie inherited from her grandpa

THE SINGER is also into art. So are her friends, one of whom helped her paint her own portrait onto this promo T-shirt.

HER Parker Fly, said to be the lightest guitar ever made. There are only three in RP.

SHAWLS and scarves are best for tying around the waist or as bandana, Kitchie says. Just choose your colors well.

Kitchie can!

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

IT'S tough going solo. I just make sure I know what I'm doing, that I know my purpose. I do everything by faith. I do it for Him."

Kitchie Nadal, former lead singer of Mojofly, shared these words of wisdom with fellow performer Barbie Almalbis, who also decided to leave her band, Barbie's Cradle, recently and pursue a solo career.

"But Barbie doesn't really need my advice," Kitchie told INQUIRER Entertainment. "She's been in the business for a while. I know she's in good hands. I just want her to know that I'll support her."

Kitchie and Barbie have the same manager, Tommy Tanchanco. But Kitchie is co-managed by Roca Cruz.

"We're friends. We knew each other from the music scene, and we have almost the same background," Kitchie said of Barbie in a previous INQUIRER interview.

Kitchie replaced Barbie when the latter left the band Hungry Young Poets to help form Barbie's Cradle. HYP later became Mojofly.

Both are also members of the evangelical Christian community called Victory Christian Fellowship.

Later in the interview, Kitchie said she shares with Barbie an interest in painting and

"I MAKE sure that I know what I'm doing, and I know my purpose."

OUT OF THE CLOSET

preference for the same kind of guitar.

Kitchie lives with her parents and four siblings in Makati. Her bedroom has just been renovated by a creative team hired for Charlene Gonzales' Sunday lifestyle program, "At Home Ka Dito," on ABS-CBN.

"This used to be a stockroom, and then a den. I used to sleep upstairs. But I couldn't do my recording up there and I had so many stuff," said Kitchie as she ushered INQUIRER Entertainment into her high-ceilinged, burgundy-colored bedroom.

"When the show offered to renovate this room, the only thing I told them was that I'm a minimalist," she added.

For more storage, the designers brought in rattan baskets and boxes. They also built large book shelves for Kitchie's books and the encyclopedias she inherited from her grandfather.

The singer's artwork collections are all over the room, pasted on the walls or mounted on standees.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

"Believe it or not, I only have two guitars, one electric and one acoustic. The electric guitar is a Parker Fly, supposedly the lightest guitar ever made. It's actually Barbie's. So far, I only know of three persons here who use this kind of guitar—Barbie, my bandmate/producer Jack Rufo and myself.

"I've been playing guitar since I was 12. The first one I played was my brother's (Alain). My mom (Marjorie) is a certified classical pianist. I'm a frustrated pianist.

"The drum set you see here belongs to one of my bandmates."

ART PIECES

"I own a couple of paintings done by friends. I paint, but collecting art pieces isn't really one of my interests. It just so happens that most of my friends paint like I do. The ones I have with me right now are by Corinne Ching, Barbie and Martin Honasan."

TOPS

"My current favorites are these hand-painted shirts from a friend who owns the I Love You Store on Saguijo Street in Makati. I like the artwork. *Ako lang ang mayroon nito*. I also own shirts with artworks done by other friends.

"This shirt is memorable to me because I wore this during my Araneta concert. It's kind of cute. I like the sparkle of the beads that form the letter M. It stands for Mossimo, which sponsored the concert.

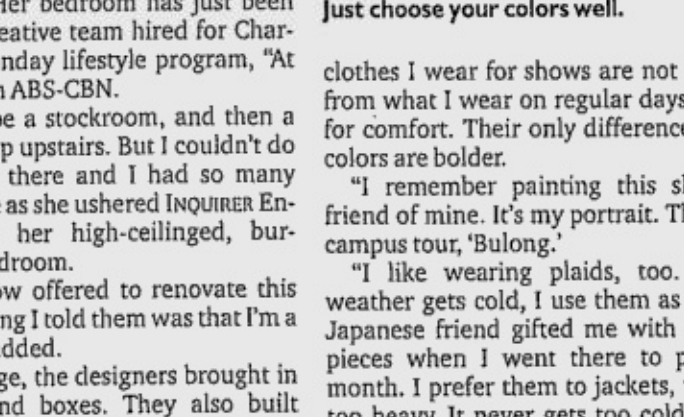
"I really like tops with unique designs, like this shirt that I also use when I perform—*mukhang pantulog*. I match it with pants. The clothes I wear for shows are not so different from what I wear on regular days. I really go for comfort. Their only difference is that the colors are bolder.

"I remember painting this shirt with a friend of mine. It's my portrait. This is for my campus tour, 'Bulong.'

"I like wearing plaids, too. When the weather gets cold, I use them as warmers. A Japanese friend gifted me with a few plaid pieces when I went there to perform last month. I prefer them to jackets, which I find too heavy. It never gets too cold here in the Philippines, anyway."

JEANS

"I want jeans that are made from thick fabrics; they're sturdier. I don't like those that hug the body. I want to be comfortable in what I wear. My current favorite is the one I bought yesterday. It's thick, loose-fitting and kind of *bitin* (short).



It's hard to find the perfect pair. The fit changes after several washings. So you should look for a size that's a little bit smaller.

FOOTWEAR

"I used to be super Imelda Marcos, but I got over that phase. If I don't feel like wearing a particular pair anymore, I give it away.

"I like boots. *Ang lakas ng dating*. My favorite is this flat brown leather pair. It reminds me of the kind of footwear we normally see the Japanese use. There's another pair that I bought from a friend. Aside from the fact that it's unique, I like it because it reminds me of that friend.

"High-heeled shoes are best for formal affairs; although they could also be worn for shows. It kind of makes you feel more confident. It makes you want to say, 'okay, all-out performance *na 'to*.' It helps you motivate."

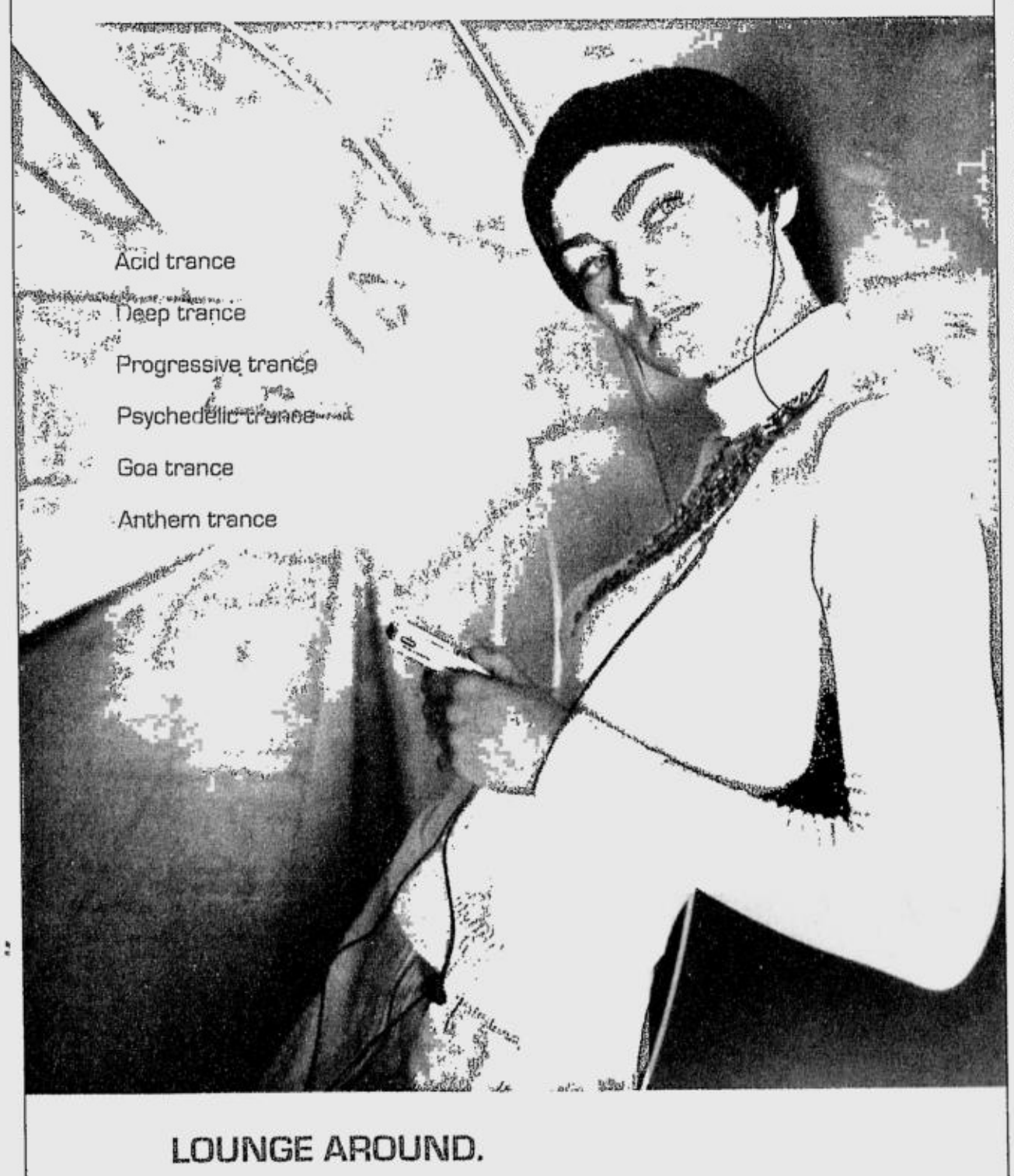
SCARVES, SHAWLS

"I buy shawls and scarves everywhere. Actually, most of what I have now are friends' gifts. They're the perfect accents when I'm in a hurry and can't think of what to wear for my shows. I just tie them around my waist or my hair as bandana. I just make sure the color matches my outfit, though. That's kind of tricky."

SLEEPWEAR

"I don't like wearing nighties or lingerie to sleep. I prefer the usual *pambahay*-jogging pants."

Sony Ericsson



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1 SKY HIGH
11:45FS/12:15MF/02:25/04:35/06:45
08:25FS/09:00LMF/10:40END

2 THE CAVE
11:45FS/12:15MF/02:25/04:35/06:45
08:25LFS/09:00LFS/10:40END

MEGAMALL
THE CAVE
10:40FS/11:10MF/01:20/03:30/05:40/07:50
09:30LFS/10:00LFS/10:40END

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1 BEWICTHED
11:15FS/11:30MF/01:30/03:30/05:30/07:30
09:10FS/09:30LMF/11:10END

2 SKELETON KEY
11:15FS/11:30MF/01:30/03:30/05:30/07:30
09:15FS/09:30LMF/11:15END

3 THE CAVE
10:50FS/11:00MF/01:06/03:12/05:18/07:24
09:05LFS/09:30LFS/11:10END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 THE CAVE
2 SKY HIGH
3 DUKES OF HAZZARD
4 THE GREAT RAID
5 LONGEST YARD
6 CINE MANGA
7 EVIL EYES
8 SKELETON KEY
9 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
10 RESERVED
11 VALIANT
12 MUST LOVE DOGS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
2 EVIL EYES
3 VALIANT
4 THE GREAT RAID
5 D' ANOTHERS
6 THE CAVE
7 DUKES OF HAZZARD
8 SKY HIGH
9 LONGEST YARD
10 SKELETON KEY
11 BEWITCHED
12 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

SM NORTH EDSA
1 THE CAVE
2 LONGEST YARD
3 VALIANT
4 THE LAZARUS CHILD
5 THE GREAT RAID
6 SKELETON KEY
7 DUKES OF HAZZARD
8 SKY HIGH

SM CITY MANILA
1 LONGEST YARD
2 SKY HIGH
3 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
4 THE CAVE
5 VALIANT
6 DUKES OF HAZZARD
7 BEWITCHED
8 MUST LOVE DOGS
9 THE GREAT RAID
10 D' ANOTHERS
11 EVIL EYES
12 SKELETON KEYS

SM CITY STA MESA
1 THE CAVE
2 DUKES OF HAZZARD
3 SKY HIGH
4 LONGEST YARD
5 PASAWAY NA MULTO
6 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
7 SKELETON KEY
8 THE GREAT RAID
9 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS
10 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 THE CAVE
2 SKY HIGH
3 DUKES OF HAZZARD
4 LONGEST YARD
5 THE GREAT RAID
6 SKELETONKEY
7 D' ANOTHERS
8 EVIL EYES
9 VALIANT
10 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE

SM SAN LAZARO
1 THE CAVE
2 SKY HIGH
3 LONGEST YARD
4 D' ANOTHERS
5 SKELETON KEY
6 DUKES OF HAZZARD

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 DUKES OF HAZZARD
2 THE CAVE
3 SKY HIGH
4 LONGEST YARD

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 THE CAVE
2 DUKES OF HAZZARD
3 SKY HIGH
4 LONGEST YARD

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 SKY HIGH
2 VALIANT
3 MUST LOVE DOGS
4 D' ANOTHERS
5 BEWITCHED
6 THE GREAT RAID

SM CITY BACOOR
1 LONGEST YARD
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 THE CAVE
4 VALIANT
5 SKY HIGH
6 PASAWAY NA MULTO
7 DUKES OF HAZZARD
8 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 VALIANT
2 CRASH
3 SISTERHOOD IN TRAVELING PANTS
4 BEWITCHED

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 THE GREAT RAID
2 BEWITCHED
3 SKELETON KEY
4 CRASH

SM CITY MARILAO
1 MUST LOVE DOGS
2 SKELETON KEY
3 D' ANOTHERS
4 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

SM CITY LUCENA
1 IF ONLY
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 THE EYE INFINITY
4 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 MUST LOVE DOGS
2 BEWITCHED
3 CRASH
4 THE EYE INFINITY

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 BEWITCHED
2 SKELETON KEY
3 THE CAVE
4 MUST LOVE DOGS
5 YEAR OF THE YAO
6 EVIL EYES
7 THE GREAT RAID
8 WEDDING CRASHERS

SM CITY ILOILO
1 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS
2 RESERVED
3 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 BEWITCHED
5 PUSANG GALA
6 SHAOLIN VS STONE WARRIOR
7 RESERVED
8 THE GREAT RAID

SM CITY DAVAO
1 MUST LOVE DOGS
2 SHAOLIN VS STONE WARRIOR
3 YEAR OF THE YAO
4 SKELETON KEY
5 BEWITCHED
6 THE GREAT RAID

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 THE GREAT RAID
2 ICE PRINCESS
3 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 THE EYE INFINITY

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DATE	PLACE	VENUE
SEPT. 9	BATAAN	Crown Hotel, Capitol Drive, Balanga City
SEPT. 10	DAGUPAN	Star Plaza Hotel, A.B Fernandez Avenue
SEPT. 11	OLONGAPO	Sam's Pizza, # 44 Magsaysay Drive
SEPT. 16	TAYABAS	Silungang Bayan, Tayabas, Quezon
SEPT. 17	CALAMBA	Batis ng Makiling, Calamba, Laguna
SEPT. 18	SAN PABLO	BEE HERE Bar and Rest., M&G Bldg. Rizal Ave.
SEPT. 23	STA. MARIA	NIC's Restaurant, Sta. Maria Bulacan
SEPT. 24	MALOLOS	4/F Alta Bldg. Sacred Heart Hosp., Malolos, Bul.
SEPT. 25	IBA ZAMBALES	White Sand Beach Hotel

OCTOBER

DATE	PLACE	VENUE
OCT. 7	LUCENA	Antigua Restaurant, Lucena
OCT. 9	NAGA	Naga Civic Center
OCT. 13	TARLAC	Cesar's Greenhouse, Bgy. Bugallon Estacion, Paniqui
OCT. 14	MAKATI	Max Restaurant, Greenbelt
OCT. 15	STA.CRUZ	Laguna Santiago Educ. Foundation (LCEF), F. Sario St. Sta. Cruz, Laguna
OCT. 20	DAVAO	The Royal Mandaya Hotel, Palma Gil St. Davao City
OCT. 21	KIDAPAWAN	Pepper Bird Rest., Quezon Blvd. Kidapawan City
OCT. 22	MARBEL	SVP Gensan Drive, Koronadal City
OCT. 23	GEN. SANTOS	Vancouver Function Rm., Sydney Hotel, Pioneer Ave.

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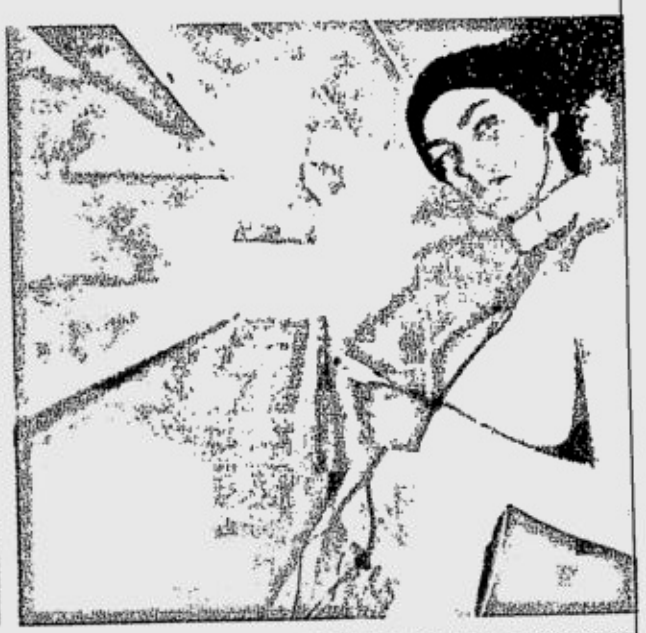

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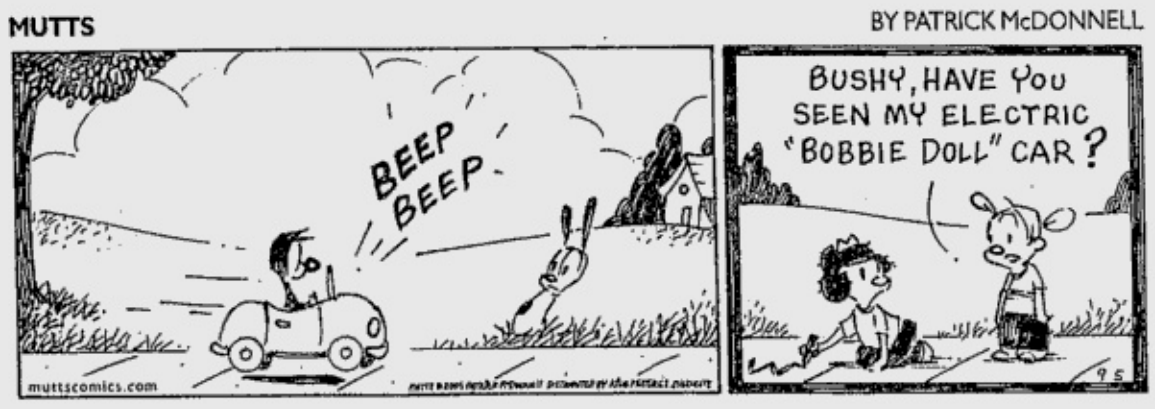


ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're both serious and fun-loving. You have a clever mind and strong verbal skills. You're also a romantic at heart. In fact, you have many childlike fantasies. Nevertheless, you're kind and giving, and people enjoy being in your company. Sometimes you make abrupt changes in your life because you literally reinvent yourself. An important choice presents itself this year. Choose wisely.
Birthdate of: Freddie Mercury, singer; Rose McGowan, actress; Bob Newhart, comic/actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Your interest in health matters and job-related issues is heightened in the next 4-6 weeks. You want to talk about these things with others. You have something to say.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You feel more playful and prankish than ever now! Romance is delightful. Old relationships can be rekindled. Your creative vibes are hot, and playful activities with children are rewarding. (Wow!)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Family discussions take on increasing importance in the month ahead. Talk to the gang. Get feedback about important issues.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You're busy! You've got places to go, people to see, things to do. Expect to take short trips, and do increased reading and writing in the month ahead.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You have good, practical moneymaking ideas now. Your ambitions are strong. This is the time to reach out and bring the abstract into the concrete. Make your ideas a reality.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): In the next few weeks, you easily put a lot of yourself into whatever you say. It's a great time to talk to others. They'll definitely sit up and listen!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You need time to be by yourself now. There are things you need to think over. Give yourself a little solitude in order to ponder what is important to you now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Discussions with friends are particularly meaningful now. You might want to tell a club or organization what your recommendations are. Perhaps, you want to give some advice to a friend.

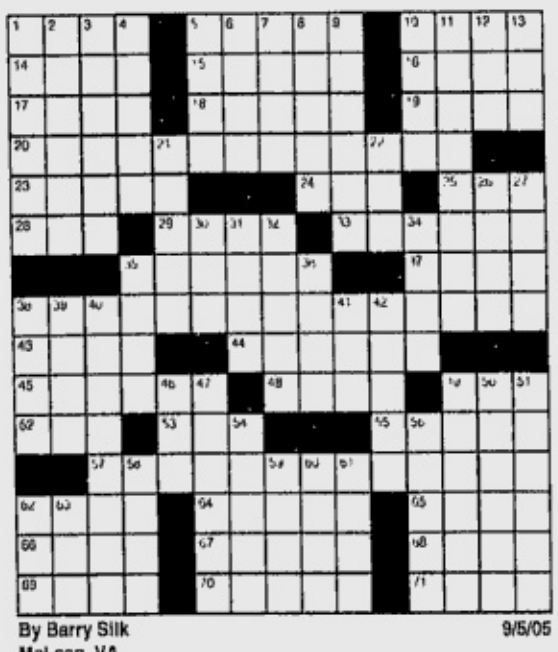
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a good time to make plans for your professional life and your career. You might also want to undertake new studies that promote your job.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Any kind of study or expanded education will appeal to you in the next few weeks. You want a larger view of life! Travel if you can.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Discussions and negotiations about finances, shared property and anything held jointly take place now. Wrap up loose ends in these areas.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You want intellectual stimulation. You want interesting conversations with partners and friends. Seek this out. Mercury, opposite your sign for the next month, makes you want to talk to others.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Barry Silk
McLean, VA

9/5/05

ACROSS
1 BLT addition
5 Bone to pick
10 "Fernando" group
14 Press
15 Bad gas in a home
16 Brit's trunk
17 Gloomy
18 Oafish
19 Midterm
20 Levy
23 Son of Jacob
24 G.P. grp.
25 Raven's cry
28 Sycophant's response
29 Japanese parliament
33 Past
35 "White Christmas" composer
37 Aphrodite's boy
38 Levee
43 Ellipsoid
44 Episodic show
45 Military division
48 Hunt and peck
49 Hiatus
52 Retirement agcy.
53 Play favorites?
55 Immature insect
57 Levi
62 Half of MCIV
64 Absolute
65 Book before Nehemiah
66 Skyline part
67 Body search
68 Cozy retreat
69 Lockhart or Allyson
70 Particulars
71 "Zip-__-Doo-Dah"

DOWN
1 Noon
2 Kindle
3 Minors
4 Way to have corned beef
5 Cheshire cat's expression
6 Indian royalty
7 Footnote word
8 1970 comedy, "Where's __?"
9 Put in a pyramid
10 Aid a crook
11 Ballgame record
12 Squeeze snake
13 24-hr. cash source
21 Arrangement
22 Beam
26 Bartlett's abbr.
27 Toward sunset
30 Anger
31 "Desire Under the __"
32 Land of lamas
34 Ritzy stones
35 Encircling route
36 __ a one (none)
38 Flagmaker Betsy
39 Currier's partner
40 Connie Francis hit
41 Short snort
42 Hull stabilizers
46 Kimono sash
47 Slight
49 Scraped gently
50 Strongly disinclined
51 Gourmet's sense
54 Neon aquarium fish
56 Gladiator's battleground
58 Abundant
59 Of the ear
60 Song or slug ending
61 Maddens
62 Erving of hoops
63 Comic Costello

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

O	R	B	I	T	E	D		T	O	S	H	I	B	A
W	A	R	G	A	M	E		E	N	T	E	R	E	D
E	P	A	U	L	E	T		N	A	R	R	A	T	E
			A	C	R	E		D	I	E	D			
C	A	R	N	E	Y	S		T	R	A	I	P	S	E
O	R	E	A	D		T	O	O		K	N	O	W	N
N	E	S	S		H	E	D		S	E	G	U	E	D
T	O	T		M	U	D	D	L	E	D		T	E	L
E	L	A	I	E	U		E	Y	E		M	I	T	E
N	A	R	E	S		A	R	M		J	A	N	I	S
D	E	T	A	I	L	S		P	L	U	N	G	E	S
			S	T	A	T		H	O	R	A			
B	E	R	E	A	V	E		O	R	I	G	A	M	I
E	M	I	T	T	E	R		I	N	S	U	L	A	R
A	B	A	S	E	R	S		D	E	T	A	I	N	S

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9/5/05

The '80s Rage on

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

TAKE FIVE

Front man Marissa Buñag says the band is her life

THE EARLY 1980s were not such a good time to form a band, at least not in Metro Manila and especially not after the Aquino assassination, when the city sank into despair and nightlife was lackluster.

However, the anger of street protests at the time found joyous respite in a few clubs like Tavern on the Square, where a band called Rage held court.

Formed by impresario Atek Jacinto (Circus Band) and fronted by his wife then, Ceres Jacinto (vocals), David Lava (guitar) and Juan Miguel Salvador (keyboards), along with a fresh-from-college Marissa Buñag as one of the backup singers, Rage drew raves for its intense, theatrical performance style.

More than 20 years later and still proudly doing covers of '80s classics, Rage has none of its original members—save for the irrepressible Buñag.

Actually, Rage disbanded in 1990, then regrouped in 2001 with Salvador and Buñag fronting new and younger members. But Salvador left last year, a split that Buñag admitted was marked by bitterness.

The night I watched one of its gigs at Aruba in Metrowalk, Pasig, Rage played before a full-house crowd that seemed reserved, but gamely cheered on when Buñag started teasing them with her rabble-rousing, party queen persona.

At 41, Buñag appears to be having a good time educating audiences on why the '80s were one of the happiest decades in popular music history.

Why keep playing in the band after Juan Miguel has left?

Rage is my life. I owe it to the older fans to keep the legacy alive, and to the new audience to share the beautiful music and energy of the '80s. If Ramon Jacinto can do it for his generation, why not Rage for mine?

Did you and Juan Miguel clash over musical differences or direction?

Yes. That's normal for every band.

The band has been playing small clubs again lately. What kind of crowd do you attract these days?

The economy is such that it's difficult to do major venues like stadiums. But we manage to attract an absolutely crazy crowd. I love it! There's a great mix of older fans who'd bring their entire families, and the *bagets* who'd stumble upon the band on one of their *gimik* nights.

Do the older fans ask about Juan Miguel?

Sometimes.

The band never recorded an album. Why?

Rage was considered too Western at that time, *at mainit na mainit ang* OPM noon. Nowadays the market is more open, so we haven't given up.

Rage is fiercely loyal to '80s music. Does this make it another revival or retro band?

If you want to be technical about it, yes. But the '80s influence is still very much alive. It's all around us. You see it in billboards and ads with '80s slogans, fashion ... *parang* the '80s went beyond just being a period in the past and imbedded itself in the present.

NEW Rage Band, from left: Noel Asistores, Q-nie Alcantara, Tonet Lipana, Marissa Buñag, Ronald Vicencio and Bonggoy Garcia

TFC: DirecTV contract favors dealers as well

DEALERS of The Filipino Channel in the United States were reported last week as being "up in arms" against the decision of ABS-CBN Global, which operates TFC, to "dump" them in favor of satellite direct-to-home (DTH) operator, DirecTV.

A report from the Mabuhay News Service in Los Angeles, California, said the network signed up with DirecTV, the biggest DTH television firm in the US, for the exclusive distribution of TFC to all DirecTV subscribers for a monthly fee of $22.99, in addition to mainstream American programming.

The dealers reportedly thought the arrangement displaced ABS-CBN's dedicated TFC Direct system, which offers only Filipino programming. Thus, they said, it also displaced Pinoy TFC dealers.

A dealer in the US Midwest was quoted as saying that the contract "takes away subscribers' freedom of choice."

MNS explained: "DirecTV also carries new US entrant, GMA 7's Pinoy TV. New subscribers can ask for Pinoy TV for $9.99 more, in addition to TFC, but they cannot get Pinoy TV alone. The TFC-DirecTV arrangement allows subscribers to get TFC alone."

Corporate strategy

ABS-CBN International released an official statement early this week noting that the new contract actually delivered to subscribers more value for money.

"On July 21, ABS-CBN Broadcasting and ABS-CBN International (ABS-CBNi) announced the migration of more than 80,000 TFCDirect! satellite subscribers to DirecTV," the statement read.

The migration was the result of a change in corporate strategy based on feedback from TFC subscribers, it said. "Filipino-Americans want more Filipino-American news and entertainment in addition to watching the top shows from the Philippines. TFC is available in the US the same way it has always been available: on cable or satellite."

Fil-Americans get more value out of this migration, the statement said. "Satellite subscribers . . . get free equipment . . . in up to four rooms, plus they . . . get English channels in one place and pay just one bill."

The statement made no mention of the entry of GMA 7's Pinoy TV into the picture.

It did say that, as a sign of goodwill, ABS-CBNi took the "extraordinary step" of telling top dealers about the strategy change before the deal was signed.

Network negotiations gave dealers interested in moving to DirecTV "expedited consideration," the statement added.

The network stressed that former TFCDirect! dealers now selling DirecTV have "a much larger audience to sell to."

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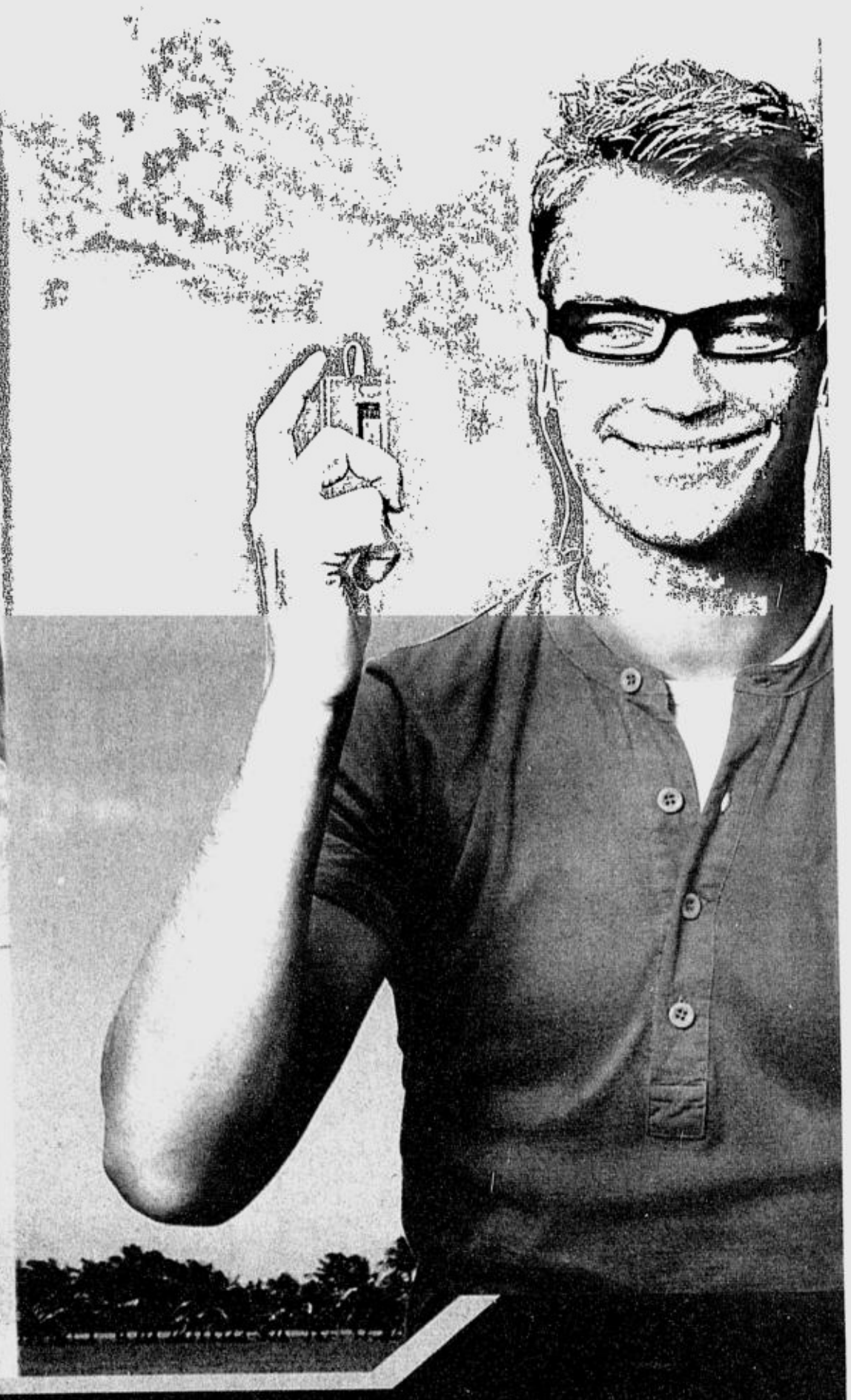
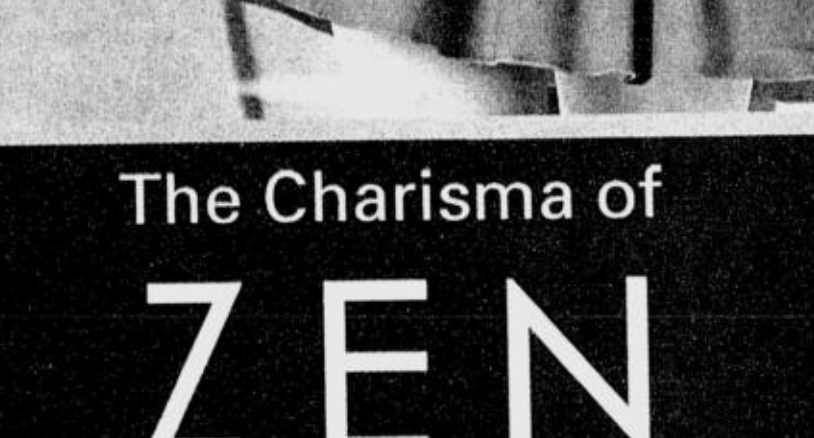


The Charisma of

ZEN

NEEON



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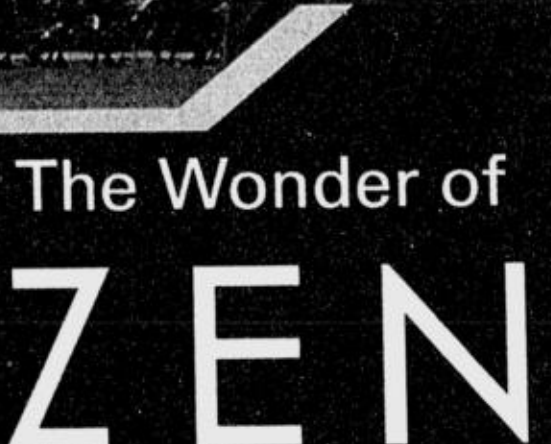

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Price war shifts to overseas call rates

By Clarissa S. Batino

Globe, PLDT offering 5 to 10 US cents/minute

LOCAL telecom giants are bringing the price war to a higher level—their overseas call rates.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. said it would offer an international long distance rate of as low as 10 US cents a minute to all its DSL subscribers starting Sept. 15. This would be equivalent to about P5.60 a minute at current exchange rates.

But Globe Telecom Inc. and its wholly owned subsidiary Innove Communications Inc. said they could bring down their IDD rates to as low as 5 US cents a minute after they secured the approval of the National Telecommunications Commission last week.

The standard IDD rate is 40 US cents a minute. Globe had cut its overseas call rate to 20 US cents a minute starting on the fifth minute under its ongoing promo. Sun Cellular is offering a similar 20 US cents-a-minute deal.

Butch Jimenez, head of PLDT's retail division, said the public should expect more price and product innovations from PLDT. "We intend to remain the leading player in the telecom industry by offering innovative service packages whenever new technology arises."

Not to be outdone, Globe assistant vice president Froilan Castelo said the recent NTC approval would allow his company to charge an even lower rate than what the competitors were offering.

"The NTC now allows us to charge as low as 5 US cents a minute on IDD. This will benefit our customers as we intend to give them more value for their money," Castelo said.

"We want to give our DSL subscribers better value for their money by offering attractive IDD rates," Jimenez said. Short for Digital Subscriber Line, DSL is PLDT's brand for its high-speed Internet product, which is now being used by about 70,000 customers.

Dubbed as PLDT ID-DSL, the new deal allows all DSL subscribers to avail themselves of IDD rates for as low as 10 US cents a minute.

Subscribers, however, have to pay a service fee of P50 a month. Starting Sept. 12, PLDT will also start charging P20 a month for those who would avail themselves of the P10 per local call promo.

PRICE/ B13

Lateral attrition law to take effect next year

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance said the implementation of the lateral attrition law, which provides a mechanism to dismiss under-performing officials and employees of the bureaus of internal revenue and of customs, would be deferred to 2006.

The Lateral Attrition Act of 2005, earlier cited by the Arroyo administration as one of the urgent measures to address the country's pressing fiscal problem, was enacted into law in the latter part of January this year.

Given that the law seeks to evaluate the revenue-collection performance of concerned employees and officials based on an entire one-year period, a finance official explained that its implementation in Jan. 1, 2006 would be most logical.

"Officials and employees of the BIR (Bureau of Internal Revenue) and the BOC (Bureau of Customs) were saved by the bell because the law was enacted already in January (2004)," Assistant Finance Secretary Gil Beltran said.

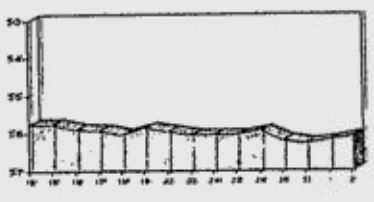
The postponement of the implementation of the lateral attrition law coincided with the delay in the issuance of its implementing rules and regulations (IRR). Seven months after the law's enactment, authorities from the BIR and the DOF have yet to finish the IRR.

The BIR's tax collection for the January-to-August period fell short of its target by P7.9 billion. The tax agency was supposed to collect P363.7 billion in the nine-month period, but it turned in only P355.8 billion.

LATERAL/ B13

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



AUGUST SEPTEMBER

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As of 5 p.m., Sept. 2, 2005

¥109.56 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 2, 2005

GOLD: $435.40-435.90
per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 2, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Modest rally seen this week

ANALYSTS expect the market to rise modestly this week after the Supreme Court upheld the expanded value-added tax law, effectively freeing up a strategic reform measure to help address the country's budget deficit.

"We don't think there is anything the opposition can add to cause the court to reconsider in 15 days," said Luz Lorenzo, head of research at ATR Kim Eng Securities.

"It expands the VAT base to include previously exempt industries such as electricity, fuel and transport. The Department of Finance said that the new tax measure can generate P7.5 billion to P10 billion in revenues in the remaining months of the year, much lower than the P28 billion the government expected to collect had the Supreme

MODEST/ B10

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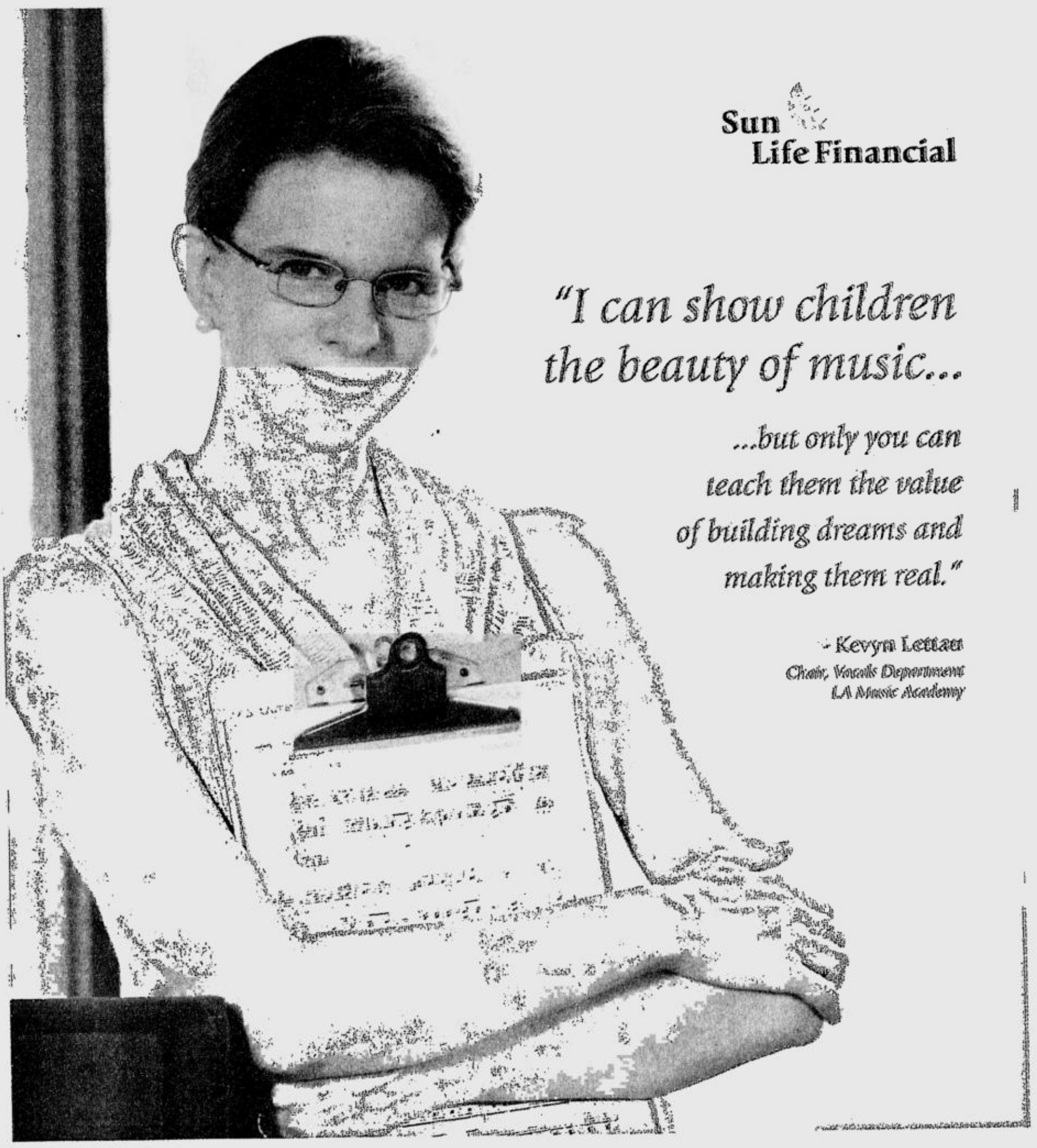
Cocktales: The Dinky+Deles Show /B3

Unctad cites risks to world economy /B15

Sun Life Financial



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Halal industry initiatives making headway in Mindanao

(Second of two parts)

THE AUTONOMOUS Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) has already organized its own Halal Regulatory and Certification Board under the auspices of Darul Ifta with the full support of the Regional Trade and Industry Office, the ARMM Business Council, other concerned agencies, and allied industry sector.

In the recently concluded National Exporters' Congress organized by the Export Development Council and Phil Export, the Department of Agriculture said that a six-year program (for 2005-2010) is now being developed by the Davao City Halal Food Industry Committee. Food processors have been attending orientation and briefing on Halal processes and guidelines as they prepare to have their products certified fit for Halal consumption.

In the East Asean Growth Area, the four-country sub-regional grouping of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines has been fast-tracking the formation of a joint venture on a Halal poultry project with Brunei as the lead country. Recent discussions focused on Halal certification, marketing, financing, business development services, and the setting up of allied projects such as feeds production, breeding, and operation of slaughterhouses and dressing plants.

The General Santos-based Halal Resource Center has raised the idea with

MINDANAWORLD

Joji Ilagan-Bian

tourism councils to explore the possibility of having the hospitality industry, specifically the hotel and restaurant sector, go Halal to cater to Halal-conscious patrons and guests in their respective cities and provinces.

"Halal, in application to sanitation and hygiene in establishments patronized by the general public and as it applies to safe and clean preparation of food, should be a welcome standard to the hospitality business except those services which, by the nature of their operations (bar, sleazy outlets, massage parlors, nightspots with gambling, and the like), are explicitly not Halal," said HRC founder Jamil Hamza Olermo.

I was informed by Art Boncato of the Marco Polo Hotel in Davao City that the hotel had a separate "halal kitchen" solely used for the preparation of halal food to meet the needs of their Muslim clients.

There are good reasons to believe that other cities and places in Mindanao (and perhaps even those in Visayas as well as in Luzon), would look at the countless benefits to be derived from having a Halal-oriented industry. I received so many e-mails last week asking for the definition of halal and other related matters. The website www.eat-halal.com states that the "Arabic word means lawful. In the Holy Quran, Allah commands Muslims and all of mankind to eat of the Halal things. The following products are definitely halal such as milk (from cows, sheep, camels and goats); honey, fish, plants (which are not intoxicant); fresh or naturally frozen vegetables; fresh or dried fruits, legumes and nuts, and grains.

The same website also says that "animals such as cows, sheep, goats, deer, moose, chickens, ducks, game birds, etc., are also Halal, but they must be Zabihah (slaughtered according to Islamic Rites) in order to be suitable for consumption. The procedure is as follows: the animal must be slaughtered by a Muslim. It should be put down on the ground (or held it if it is small) and its throat should be slit with a very sharp knife to make sure that the three main blood vessels are cut. While cutting the throat of the animal (without severing it), the person must pronounce the name of Allah or recite a blessing which contains the name of Allah, such as "Bismillah Allah-u-Akbar."

The following items have been categorized as being Haram (Arabic word for unlawful) by jurists in light of the Holy Quran and the Sunnah of the Prophet Mohammad and should, therefore, be avoided by all Muslims: pig, blood, carnivorous animals, almost all reptiles and insects, bodies of dead animals, halal animals which are not slaughtered according to the Islamic Law, wine, ethyl alcohol and spirits. Ingredients such as alcohol, animal shortening, animal fat, bacon, broth from animals, lard, stock from animals are also to be avoided. The above mentioned website will provide you with a far more detailed information.

With these updates, and with other Halal-related activities in the pipeline, this emerging industry is finally taking shape. The development of the halal industry and the vision that our island be the center of Halal Production and Certification is indeed a bright spot not only for the ARMM , but also for the whole of Mindanao.

(Joji Ilagan Bian is an advocate for Mindanao ; vice chair of the Mindanao Commission Of Women and National Corn Board; chair of the Mindanao TVET ; Mindanao representative to the Export Development Council and former chair of the Mindanao Business Council. Email comments to jojibian2@yahoo.com)

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To Our Valued CAP Education Planholders:

For the last 12 months since August 2004 when the SEC withheld CAP's Dealer's License, the company has faithfully continued operations mainly to fulfill its obligation to planholders of paying the tuition fees of its CAP scholars. From September 2004 to July 2005, CAP's tuition payments reached **P1.8 Billion**; and from the time its first scholar entered college in 1985 up to July 2005, CAP has paid a total of **P11.3 Billion** in tuition fees.

In several news items, the SEC has intimated a planned management takeover of CAP. That action could lead to the liquidation of the company's assets, sacrificing in the process the payment of tuition fees. This, CAP would not allow to happen. It has to protect the very reason for its existence - you, our planholders, and our vision for the Filipino youth that has seen so far the graduation of 90,000 CAP scholars using the CAP plans.

CAP has, therefore, filed a Petition for Rehabilitation with the courts, which includes the temporary suspension of all payments to creditors **EXCEPT TUITION FEES DUE TO PLANHOLDERS** whom CAP wishes to prioritize.

Highlights of the **8-YEAR REHABILITATION PLAN** are as follows:

- **No suspension of tuition fee payments. Computations to be based on 2004-2005 levels.**
- **Fixed Value Plans to be paid upon maturity.**
- **Financial Commitment: Trust Fund asset build-up of P14.36 Billion during the rehabilitation period while continuing to pay tuition fees.**

CAP PHILIPPINES

CAP SHALL REMAIN TRUE TO ITS COMMITMENT

The Dinky+Deles Show

POLITICIANS like to channel pork barrel funds into their districts and pet projects when they get elected; Edsa I and Edsa II activists like Corazon "Dinky" Soliman and Teresita Quintos-Deles, as it turned out, were themselves not above funneling government funds into their own NGOs when they became GMA Cabinet members.

The Gaston Z. Ortigas Peace Institute, where Deles was executive director before Edsa II, received P238,015 in 2004 from the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, a substantial boost from the 2001 grant of P27,722 it received from the same Malacañang office.

Guess who was the presidential adviser on the peace process in 2004?

The Community Organizers Multiversity, organized and headed by Soliman before she too joined the Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo administration, acknowledged that it too received "donations and grants" from the Presidential Management Staff, National Anti-Poverty Commission, Department of Health, and the Local Government Support Program.

But unlike the Deles NGO, the Soliman NGO was more economical with the truth, consistently failing year after year to disclose how much money it had received from the government and even from the political party Abanse Pinay, as well as from such foreign donors as the Ford Foundation, The Asia Foundation, and the World Bank.

One trend was clear in the Deles NGO financial statements. Donations and grants from both local and foreign institutions racheted up after Deles began sporting the number "6" car plate, so to speak.

The Ateneo-based NGO reported receiving more than P3.29 million in local and foreign grants in 2004, as against the tumultuous 2000 when it said it reported receiving P1.39 million in grants.

The Soliman NGO, on the other hand, reported obtaining more than P12.35 million in donations and grants in 2003 (no 2004 records yet), as against P26.9 million in 2000.

One of the listed donors to the Soliman NGO was the Peace and Equity Foundation, the beneficiary of the P1.4-billion windfall that CODE-NGO obtained from the controversial Peace Bond deal.

Guess who used to head CODE-NGO?

Wand-ering money

THE CANADIAN International Development Agency in 1990 donated C$3.5 million to a feminist nongovernment organization, the Women's Action Network for Development (WAND).

As required by Canadian laws, the donation had to be channeled to a registered Philippine foundation, and, hence, a Diwata Foundation was incorporated for that purpose, with the seven incorporators plunking down P500 each as start-up money.

As required, five incorporators—Teresita Quintos-Deles, Karina Constantino-David, Carolyn Medel-Añonuevo, Aida Santos, and Ana Maria Nemenzo—listed their residence addresses.

COCKTALES/ B13

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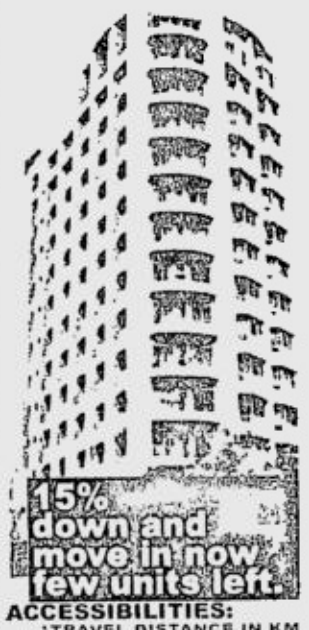

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RCBC tops invest survey

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC), the universal banking arm of the Yuchengco group of companies, retained its top ranking as manager of retirement funds, according to the latest survey by Watson Wyatt Philippines Inc., one of the biggest global human resource consulting firms in the Asia-Pacific region.

Watson Wyatt surveys some of the biggest and most prestigious retirement funds in the Philippines. The returns generated by the enrolled funds are ranked against each other as well as the fund managers handling them, thereby providing a good measure of the relative performance of fund managers. Watson Wyatt disclosed that for the quarter ending March 31, 2005, RCBC led all fund managers handling five or more enrolled accounts in the finer category of "Funds Managed with Full Discretion" for the past five years.

RCBC is the fifth biggest trust institution in the country in terms of volume of trust assets. Aside from retirement funds, its fund management services also extend to corporate accounts, institutional accounts, personal accounts, common trust funds (CTF) and unit investment trust funds (UITF).

Raymond Ricafort talks on how 64-bit technology boosts the I-café business

Raymond Ricafort is not your typical technopreneur. This Economics graduate from the University of the Philippines (UP) is, in fact, in charge of the country's largest chain of internet cafés—Netopia.

In a relatively short span of time, Netopia has emerged as the leading gaming arena among local gamers. Netopia is a product of merger companies led by Digital Paradise, Inc. (DPI), ePLDT, Axel and Vivien Komarup Group as major shareholders.

Being at the helm of the business has its day-to-day pressures, Raymond admitted. He manages Netopia's daily operations as well as the shared access retail chain in the Philippines and Thailand. Armed with a Master's degree in Business Administration from the Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU), Raymond oversees the store's expansion and develops overall efficiencies in the various operations aspects of the shared access business.

"Today, Netopia has three additional brands including *Extreme Gaming Ground (EGG)* which is an entertainment-focused facility for the high-end, and *Business Office Solutions (BOSS)* which is a document services-focused facility, and *Internet-an* for the low-end Netopia variant."

Raymond boasted that Netopia currently has 170 branches, expecting to grow to 200 branches by year-end. He also mentioned that Netopia's 73 branches are operated by franchisees. "They pay a one time franchise fee of P330,000 VAT inclusive, plus the cost of the branch. On a recurring basis, the franchisees also pay a monthly royalty based on percentage of sales."

Netopia is known as the local gamers' melting pot. With 48 computer units in each branch, online gamers at Netopia usually occupy 24 percent; while 4 percent is rented for network gaming. The rest of the computers are rented for internet-related services or desktop publishing. More than 80,000 customers visit Netopia branches nationwide or over 2.5 million customers per month and the main reason these customers are loyal is because of Netopia's focus on the quality of its facilities and equipment.

New Intel® Processor-based PCs with 64-bit technology

For online gaming, having and using the right technology is essential. "Having equipped our Netopia branches with PCs based on the newest Intel® Processor-based PCs supporting 64-bit technology help us differentiate ourselves from other internet cafes."

"We maximize the PC by using graphics-intensive games including new real time strategy games. Our games run faster without the flickering and stuttering that you may experience on slower computers."

Netopia is also updated when it comes to innovations in online gaming. "Now with Massive Multi-Player On-Line Gaming (MMOG), Netopia customers can play with thousands of other players around the world. It's almost like joining the Olympics in any Netopia branch."

The Netopia top honcho explains how Intel® is part of this modern advancement in gaming technology: "The servers used to host this MMOG games are very CPU resource hungry. Can you imagine managing thousands of players at a time? The server and client CPUs will be processing each action a player makes in the game arena and the effects of his action on the environment he is in."

He has also tried the new Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor with 64-bit technology at its maximum level. The new CPU's unit, he said, further harnesses the creativity and imagination of those creating games.

Perfect for Internet and Savvy Users

Perfect for avid PC gamers, home users, students and internet cafés like Netopia, this new Intel® technology boasts quality features including enhanced multitasking, improved responsiveness, faster memory access and better multimedia capabilities.

The Intel® Processor-based PCs supporting 64-bit technology also possess better responsiveness for data intensive applications; enhanced multitasking; future proofing demanding 64-bit applications; improved power management and saving for power users; quieter, more energy efficient and multiple business applications.

Also, the updated Intel® Processor-based PCs supporting 64-bit technology were specially developed to bring an outstanding digital experience. PC users can make their own movies and watch them in home theatre quality. They can also reorganize their entire photo albums digitally without any hitch.

A Flourishing Business

Locally, the business will continue to flourish. The net boom is just starting to peak, and Netopia is already in a strategic position to weather the storms of a growing industry.

Raymond added that new services such as content distribution, information sharing and communication services will largely benefit the net industry. Major factors include global competitive pressures, trends in business process outsourcing (BPO), technological changes such as wi-max, cell phone and PC interface, and purchasing power will further expand the promise of the Internet service in the country.

Truly, learning the tricks of the trade from a real and dynamic technopreneur is the way to go. Internet café owners should learn a thing or two from Raymond. He ends: "You will need to personally oversee the café and win your customers over. You will have to watch its performance. After all, even the richest people in the Philippines continue to personally manage their business."

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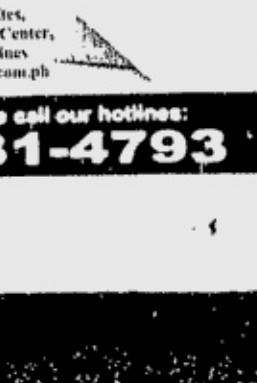

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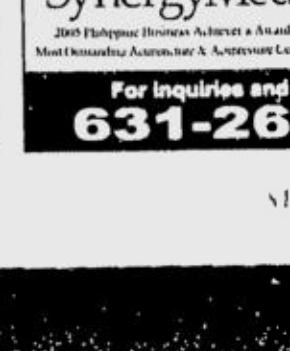

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PhilHealth

PhilHealth Capitation Fund:

A Catalyst for RHU Improvement

Over 700 rural health units (RHUs) in the country are now providing out-patient diagnostic and consultation services to indigent families enrolled under the Sponsored Program of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth).

By making chest x-ray, urinalysis, fecalysis, complete blood count, sputum microscopy and visual acetic acid for cervical cancer screening accessible to the needy, these RHUs are entitled to a return on the local government units' (LGU) investment in the PhilHealth program through a capitation fund that benefits both the RHU and the health care professionals providing the services.

This funding mechanism may seem unique for those not familiar with it, but the setting up of a capitation fund is not a new concept in the insurance industry. It is being practiced abroad and was, in fact, pilot-tested on local shores as early as the Medicare days.

What is capitation?

The implementing guidelines for the Outpatient Benefits has defined capitation as "the scheme or form of paying the RHU for specific services it provides for a particular period which is arrived at based on a pre-determined criteria under the condition that any savings from the agree amount accrues to the benefit of the RHU and that in case of insufficiency thereof, the particular services due to the covered beneficiaries shall be delivered at the cost of the RHU."

Today, the establishment of a capitation fund augurs well with PhilHealth's aim of ensuring that the quality of medical care delivered, even at the lowest rung of the health care delivery system, will be at par with the standards being set for other health care providers.

How does the capitation fund system work?

For every indigent family enrolled by the LGU into the Sponsored Program, PhilHealth pays back P300 to the sponsoring LGU representing capitation amount per year of enrolment. The amount is taken from the annual premium remittance of the LGU to PhilHealth and is released on a quarterly basis

The fund is then released by the LGU to the RHU where the enrolled families are listed under. The RHU may use the fund to buy drugs listed in the Philippine National Drug Formulary, acquire supplies and materials critical to effective delivery of primary care services, and pay for referral fees.

At least 20 percent of the capitation fund may also be used for administrative expenses, half of which must go to the health center physician and the other half to be shared by the health center staffmembers. The amount of capitation that can be granted to the RHU depends on the members' date of membership, effective date of RHU accreditation and the number of households covered by a particular RHU.

How much capitation has PhilHealth released?

As of December 31, 2004, PhilHealth has disbursed some P258M in capitation funds covering 762 RHUs nationwide. Reports have shown that 80 percent of the capitation fund have been used to purchase medicines and 20 percent for equipment and supplies, and for payment to the health center physicians. The amounts are expected to increase further as the number of indigent families being enrolled into the Sponsored Program increases. PhilHealth taps into the premium contributions of the LGUs for this purpose, aside from paying for the hospitalization benefits of the enrolled families.

What do LGUs say about the capitation fund?

At least two local government officials have expressed appreciation for the release of the capitation funds, saying these have helped improve the service delivery capability of their health centers, while enhancing access of their constituents to primary care services.

Tarlac City Mayor Genaro Mendoza shares that the benefits derived by his *kababayans* from their membership with PhilHealth far outweigh the amount being paid by the LGU as premium contribution of the enrolled families. This, he said, ensures the health concerns of his constituents and at the same time, *"nakatitipid ang ating mga kababayan dahil hindi na sila gumagastos ng malaki. Meron pong capitation fund na bumabalik sa amin,"* adding that through this fund, his City has been able to buy its own ambulance. Tarlac City has so far enrolled 33,000 indigent families into the Sponsored Program.

Similarly, Lanao del Norte Governor Imelda Dimaporo said that she had no second thoughts about renewing the coverage of around 51,000 indigent families under PhilHealth's Sponsored Program. The province is the first LGU to have renewed the enrolment of its less privileged constituents into the Program this year. *"Malaki ang naitulong (nito) sa ating mga kababayan dahil di biro ang na-ospital,"* Dimaporo said. She also called on her fellow governors to renew or enrol their needy constituents into the Program, saying *"...ito ay nakatutulong ng malaki sa inyong constituents upang makaseguro tayo ng maluwag at malayo sa sakit na lipunan."*

Call to action

Indeed, local government officials who have not yet decided on how best to provide medical care services to their needy constituents at the least possible cost may certainly learn a thing or two from fellow LGU primemovers. No other government health care program offers a return on investments that may be used to further improve the facilities of our country's health centers, for the direct benefit of our needy fellowmen.

Sources:
1. Interview with Tarlac City Mayor Genaro Mendoza, "Dear PhilHealth" on dzRH, March 16, 2005 2. Interview with Lanao del Norte Governor Imelda Dimaporo, "Dear PhilHealth" on dzRH, May 11, 2005. 3. Handbook on the Capitation Payment Mechanism for the Out-Patient Benefit Package of PhilHealth, Management Sciences for Health - Health Sector Reform Technical Assistance Project, January 2001, http://erc.msh.org/hsr/link%20sites/virtual%20docs/Doc01_capitation 4. Utilization Report on Capitation Fund as of December 31, 2004.

Napocor to issue $100M in bonds

By Doris C. Dumlao

ENCOURAGED by the strong investor response to its latest foray in the global bond market, the state-owned utility National Power Corp. (Napocor) is poised to borrow another $100 million very soon, government officials said.

The policy-making Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has approved Napocor's new borrowing during its meeting last Thursday, a senior BSP official said.

The utility firm's plan to borrow another $100 million was confirmed by Nieves Osorio, president of Power Sector Assets & Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM), the entity overseeing the privatization of Napocor.

"It's still for our foreign exchange obligations, but we still have to consult (National Treasurer Omar Cruz) on the timing," Osorio said in a telephone interview on Saturday.

But she agreed it was a good time to return to the foreign debt market following a recent Supreme Court ruling that upheld the legality of the expanded value-added tax, the centerpiece of the government's fiscal reform program.

As the issue size was relatively small at only $100 million, analysts said there was a good chance that Napocor would simply either reopen existing bond issuances or seek private placements instead of conducting an entirely new offering.

The national government is likewise expected to tap the global debt market as early as this month, after the investor meetings set in New York and London, to raise its remaining $850-million foreign commercial borrowing requirement.

Napocor, which produces electricity for much of the 300,000 square-kilometer archipelago, successfully raised $400 million from the issuance of six-year floating rate bonds last month to repay some of its maturing debts and help finance its operations.

Earlier this year, the utility also raised P5 billion from the issuance of peso-denominated bonds.

Napocor was unable to borrow under its own name in the past as investors sought high interest rates given its mounting losses and ballooning debts. Most of its external funding requirements were thus met by having the national government borrow on its behalf as well as through credit-enhancement facilities offered by Overseas Private Investment Corp.

However, investor sentiment has turned favorable on the Napocor bonds, reflecting a much-awaited improvement in the company's financial operations.

Napocor president Cyril del Callar said earlier said the utility, which has been suffering a financial hemorrhage since 1998, could break even this year, or three years ahead of target.

The turnaround was made possible by an increase in its power rates and stronger electricity sales. Its finances were also shored up by the government's absorption last December of P200 billion of its P500 billion in debts, in turn reducing its interest expenses this year to about P22.64 billion from P30.25 billion in 2004.

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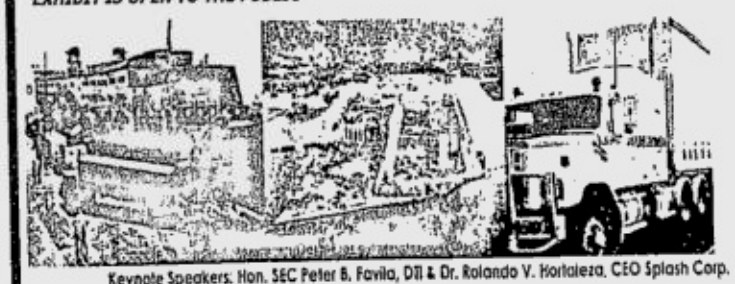
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• MEETING THE CHALLENGES IN DELIVERING EXCELLENCE FOR HEALTHCARE PRODUCTS – Brett Marshall, Zuellig Pharma Corporation
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Good news, bad news

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

AT FIRST look, the 4.8-percent GDP growth posted in the second quarter as reported last week by the government appeared to be both good news and bad news. Compared to the 6.5-percent GDP growth in the same period a year ago, it was bad news. But being slightly higher than the 4.6-percent growth in the previous quarter, it looked like good news.

Bad news, period

Well, not quite. In our recent Eagle Watch Economic and Political Briefing, I indicated that the Ateneo Macroeconomic Forecasting Model (AMFM) was projecting a second quarter GDP growth of 5 percent. This came out of the Real Business Cycle (RBC) model developed by my Ateneo colleague Dr. Luis Dumlao, which forms part of the AMFM toolkit. As Dr. Dumlao would explain it, the economy would have grown by 5 percent without government doing anything, but based purely on natural business cycle trends--and yet it still fell short. Translation: the government's interventions in the economy actually made things worse for us. In short, the second quarter figure of 4.8 percent was bad news, period.

Moreover, our RBC model projects that growth would slow down again to 4.8 and 4.2 percent in the third and fourth quarters, respectively, yielding a 4.6-percent average GDP growth for the year. This is even before factoring in the unabated oil price increases and the implementation of the expanded VAT. Given this, I'd say it's a safe bet to expect growth to cool off for the remainder of the year.

Continuous slowdown

With the second quarter figures in, we can examine growth trends by semester. What emerges is that GDP growth had progressively slowed down over the last three semesters, from 6.4 percent, to 5.7 percent, and further down to 4.7 percent.

Mostly driving the growth in our domestic production is growth in personal consumption expenditures (PCE), fueled by strong remittances from abroad. PCE had been growing at more than 5 percent over the past five quarters, but has now dipped to 4.9 percent, again after progressively slowing down over the last three semesters.

Investment, which is the main driver of growth in our dynamic neighboring economies, has not just slowed down in our case, but has actually declined over the last two quarters. In the first half of this year, it dropped by 5.5 percent, a dramatic turnaround from a hefty 13.7 growth in the second half of last year.

Exports show the same dramatic slowdown. From double-digit growth rates of 13.9 and 14.4 percent in the first and second semesters of 2004, it has screeched to a grinding 2.2 percent in the first half of this year.

Outside drivers

Ignoring for a moment the internal political pressures bearing on the economy, what external forces would impact on our economic performance in the near term?

The China factor looms large. Despite conscious attempts to moderate its growth, the Chinese economy still grew by a brisk 9.5 percent in the first half of 2005. There is good news and bad news here for us. On the upside, this translates to continuing growth in their demand for our exports to them, notably raw materials like copper, and agricultural products. Also, the recent revaluation of the Chinese yuan has a favorable implication on the value of our peso. On the downside, their rapid growth continues to translate to an ever-growing demand for oil, with China's oil imports projected to grow 6 percent this year. China's thirst for oil, along with that of India, is cited as a key factor in the unabated rise in world crude oil prices.

The US and Japanese economies are likewise picking up steam, again leading to positive and negative pressures on our economy similar to those above. In addition, a downside pressure coming from the US side is the anticipated raising of interest rates by the Federal Reserve Bank, which will in turn exert upward pressure on our own interest rates. This would have the impact of slowing down business.

Inflationary pressures

Oil price increases are bad enough, but what has not received as much attention is the fact that world prices of key industrial inputs, particularly steel and copper, have also been zooming up. The price of steel has doubled in the last two years, while that of copper has doubled over the last four years. Expect this to show up in significant price increases in steel- and copper-using products such as motor vehicles, appliances, electrical wires, and many others when inventories run out. And with agricultural production remaining sluggish after a first-quarter contraction, food prices will continue being a key factor in pushing up inflation in the remainder of the year.

Poised for takeoff? Looks more like a landing (hopefully not a meltdown!) to me. I can appreciate why the President needs to drum up confidence in the economy, but declaring us to be on the verge of a takeoff—as if claiming credit for it—doesn't help her already extremely low credibility.

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

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Gov't ICT plan not a failure—Peña

By Erwin Oliva
Contributor

REACTING to observations made by Sen. Manuel Roxas II in a public hearing on the implementation of the electronic commerce law, the Commission on Information and Communications Technology (CICT) chief said it was too early to give the information and communications technology plan of the government a failing mark.

"I think it's too early to say that it failed. We do have success stories, like the eLGU project of the National Computer Center, the electronic library project of several government agencies, the community e-center of the CICT, and the Anti-Money Laundering project," said CICT chair Virgilio Peña, reacting to Roxas' statements at the Senate oversight committee hearing on e-commerce.

Most of these projects got funding from the CICT through the P4-billion e-government fund allocated by the Department of Budget and Management in 2003. About a billion pesos was set aside for e-government projects this year, with another billion allotted for 2006, according to the oversight committee report on the E-commerce Law.

The e-government fund was created to finance high-impact and mission-critical ICT projects of government agencies, subject to the approval of the now-dismantled Information Technology and E-commerce Council.

The CICT, formed in 2004, was later given the task to manage the e-government fund. At least 26 agencies implementing 30 ICT projects have availed of the e-government fund.

According to the oversight committee report, about P3.7 billion was released in 2003 for 23 agencies covering 26 projects. This year, about P221.8 million was released to four agencies.

"I wouldn't say they were a failure. There has been no project endorsed for e-government funding that has failed, except the Comelec modernization," Peña said.

Roxas expressed disappointment over the implementation of the E-commerce Law five years after its implementation and after P4 billion allotted to the CICT.

"The interoperability feature [of government] as it stands right now is still aspirational. It is still a hope rather than a reality—that is one of the challenges e-commerce, as [it] relates to government and its relationship to the business sector, will have to face. Each agency, pretty much, is allowed to go and undertake its own IT or e-commerce plan but oftentimes it's not synchronized or coordinated with a grand plan or a coherent plan," Roxas said.

The senator stressed that most government agencies find themselves with computers and data that cannot be interconnected.

"The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), for instance, has difficulty using the Bureau of Customs (BOC) data because it still has to be converted into usable form by the BIR computer system. So when the BIR checks the cost of goods sold by a company, it will have difficulty relating importation of the same company. That is a practical sort of example. We [in] the e-commerce oversight committee were disappointed to find out that this was the true stage of e-commerce in the country. It has been five years since this law has been passed under the CICT, they spent or allocated about P4 billion and yet we are still here. We spent bits and pieces on various projects, I am sure they are all very worthwhile, but there doesn't seem to be any coherence and so therefore after all these years and money only one, the BIR, has been completed and the BOC is also pretty much along the way but the rest are still very far away," the senator continued.

The Department of Trade and Industry was mandated to implement the E-commerce Law under Republic Act 8792. But under Executive Order 269 issued in January 2004, the CICT was put in charge of the e-government strategy and plan, making CICT the overall implementing arm.

"CICT plays a major role in the implementation of the E-commerce Law based on the context of the provisions of the [e-commerce] law, although we're not mandated. This is our own interpretation based on the executive order creating the CICT," admitted Peña.

The E-commerce Law was passed in 2000 but the CICT was created only in 2004. It is currently under the Office of the President.

The goal of CICT's e-government plan is to encourage interoperability among government agencies, but this requires identification of government services and processes, Peña said.

"We do have a government strategy in place. This serves as the framework for endorsing e-government projects. But we're encouraging connectivity of various agencies as we endorse funding to ICT projects," he added.

Peña was less harsh on Philippine government agencies, saying it is indeed a challenge to force government agencies to interoperate.

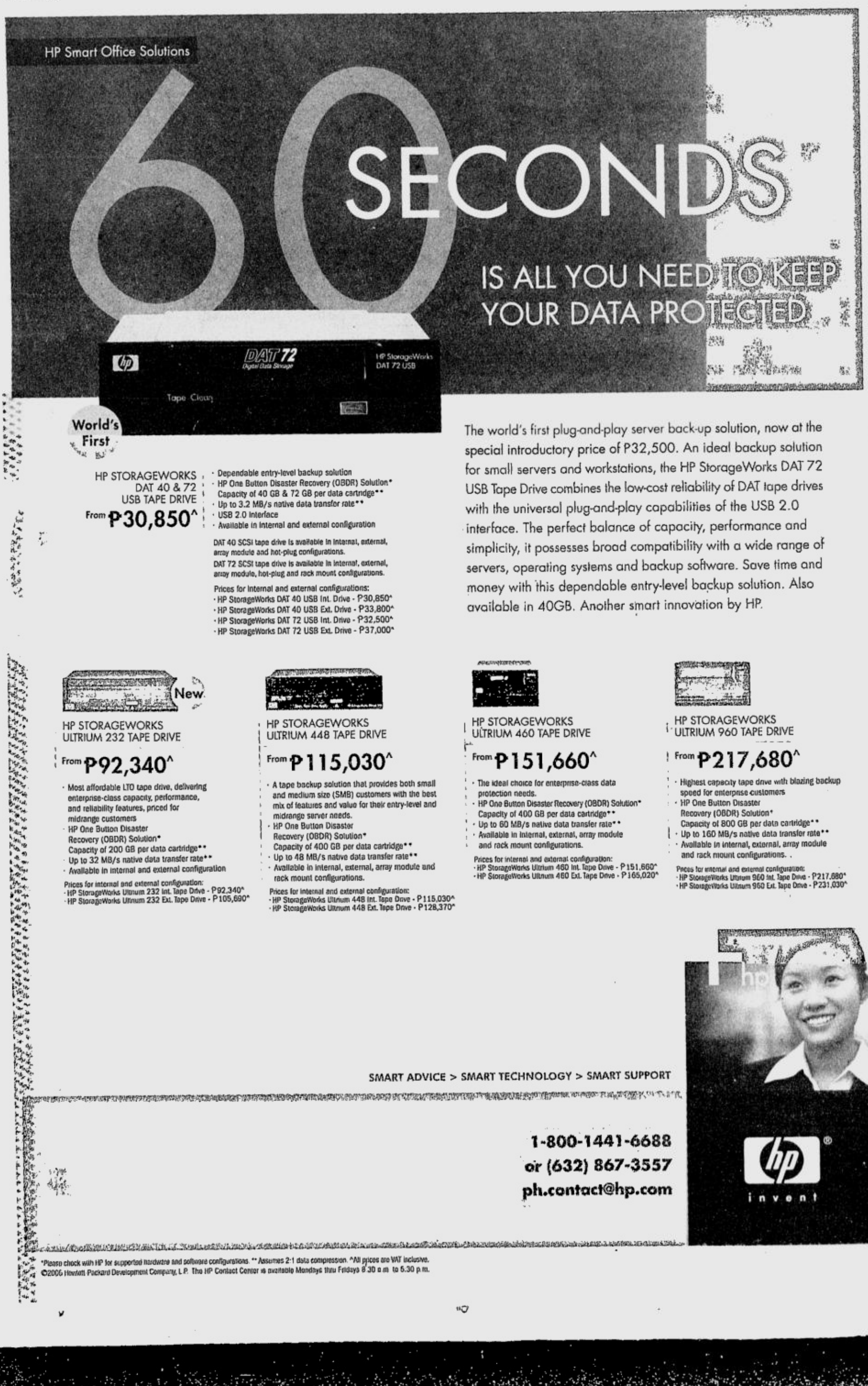
"It is a question [of] which business processes of government will need to interoperate. So unless this is part of the Government Information System Plan of an agency, we cannot force them to interoperate. But we give incentives to agencies who propose to interoperate," the CICT chief said.

One of government's biggest hurdles in ICT project implementation is managing complex e-government projects.

"We still need to develop skills within the public sector, so we're encouraging governments to outsource ICT projects," Peña said.

The E-commerce Law mandates government agencies to engage in e-commerce within two years or before June 19, 2002 but the majority of them have failed to do so.

It also requires the implementation of the RPWeb, a project aimed at interconnecting all government offices to the Internet and providing universal access to the general public. The same grand plan is contained in a measure creating the proposed Department of ICT now pending in Congress.



NTC to release implementing rules on VoIP

By Erwin Oliva
Contributor

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission (NTC) is set to release the implementing guidelines related to a memorandum circular on Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) rules it released recently, an official told Infotech.

"We need to clarify some issues on ownership, as well as the paid-up capital required for companies before they can register with us. We want to be careful in granting applications to VoIP providers," said NTC Deputy Commissioner Jorge Kintanar in a telephone interview, as he cited some of the contents of the implementing guidelines.

Kintanar said that the implementing guidelines to memorandum circular 05-08-2005 will be released on or before Sept. 10.

The NTC signed and released the final VoIP guidelines on Aug. 23 after months of debate with local telephone companies and value-added service providers.

Under the new rules, VoIP is now classified as a value-added service, which means it will be a deregulated service. Prior to this ruling, telephone companies with congressional franchise were the only entities allowed to offer commercial VoIP in the Philippines.

The House committees on Information and Communications Technology and on Trade jointly have also approved legislation supporting the deregulation of VoIP services in the country last month.

Both committees have approved the consolidated bill declaring VoIP as a value-added service, consistent with the new rules signed by the NTC.

The developments at the NTC and Congress will eventually open up the Philippine VoIP market to value-added service providers, such as Internet service providers who can now begin offering VoIP service without the need to apply for a congressional franchise.

VoIP routes phone calls through the Internet instead of through traditional public switched telephone networks. Its lower cost has made it a popular alternative to traditional voice calls. This is expected to bring down cost of international direct distance (IDD) calls from 40 US cents to 5 to 10 cents a minute for calls to, say, the United States.

VoIP takes analog audio signals, like the kind you hear when you talk on the phone, and turns them into digital data that can be transmitted over the Internet. In short, VoIP can transform a standard Internet connection into a medium where you can make cheaper or even free phone calls. While some free VoIP software like Skype are now available to everyone, this innovation may bypass the phone companies and the usual long-distance charges. This is the reason telephone companies are opposing the technology.

In short, VoIP will revolutionize the way we communicate. It is disruptive for traditional phone companies, but it will essentially change the face of telecommunications.

With VoIP, providers like Vonage have emerged and have threatened incumbent players in the telecommunications industry. In the United States, major carriers like AT&T have responded by riding the VoIP bandwagon, offering their own VoIP services in several markets.

In the Philippines, the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), and its Internet café chain subsidiary Netopia, are offering commercial VoIP services. Last month, the Lopez-owned Bayantel joined the fray as it announced commercial residential VoIP services.

Batangas Port II operation to be auctioned off in '06

By Clarissa S. Batino

ASIAN Terminals Inc. got a temporary license to operate for one year the second phase of the Batangas International Port.

ATI now operates the first phase of the port. It will run the second phase on a temporary basis while the government is working on the details of the bidding of the port's operation.

Philippine Ports Authority general manager Oscar Sevilla said the government intended to privatize the operations of phase 2 of Batangas Port in 2006.

ATI president Jerry Rickcord said his company was interested in bidding for it. "Batangas Port has a great long-term potential," he said.

ATI rival International Container Terminal Services Inc., according to Sevilla, is also interested in bidding for it.

Rickcord said phase two would have to be equipped with about $10 million worth of cranes so it could "operate aggressively."

"We want to make Batangas Port a transshipment port instead of just a feeder port. We want to attract ships to dock in Batangas where rates could be lower than that in Manila," said Sevilla.

Transport Secretary Leandro Mendoza said that the government would offer incentives to ship operators so they would dock their vessels in Batangas Port.

Just as the Arroyo administration made the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in Clark a primary aviation gateway, Mendoza said he would ask Malacañang to give Batangas Port a similar status.

"The Philippines is very strategic in Southeast Asia, which is why we could make Batangas a transit port," said Mendoza.

The government borrowed about P3 billion from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation to develop the 128-hectare phase 2 of Batangas Port, which is six times larger than the 20-hectare area now being operated by ATI.

The parliamentary nightmare

(Part 2)

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

JOSE V. Abueva, in pushing for a parliamentary system, plays right into the hands of two of the archipelago's cleverest politicians, Fidel V. Ramos and Jose de Venecia.

When Abueva says it is easy to remove a bad prime minister by the simple device of the "no-confidence" vote, he echoes the sentiments of both Ramos and De Venecia. But, if it is easy to remove a bad prime minister by means of a "no-confidence" vote, it is just as easy to remove a good prime minister the same way.

The no-confidence vote, if unbridled, is a sure recipe for instability. We will witness a no-confidence vote in each of the 11 independent regional states and in the big State of Metro Manila every six months or so. The impeachment process now going on against GMA will be a picnic compared to the never-ending circuses in the 12 parliaments Abueva wants to set up.

All over the world, the no-confidence vote, as a means of changing the prime minister, has been losing steam. Have you heard lately of a prime minister or president being kicked out for losing a no-confidence vote? Not in the UK, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Canada, Australia. Not even in Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, and Indonesia.

The Indian and Thai parliament has been stable over the past few years because there is a law that, if a member of parliament votes against his party in an important issue, he is not only out of the party but straight out of parliament. This law prevents turncoatism.

This phenomenon of stable parliaments around the world is the result of the fact that parliaments, such as France and Indonesia, are turning more and more presidential in character.

Abueva says a parliamentary system will reduce the cost of electing the head of the government by choosing the leader of the majority party or coalition as the prime minister. If Joseph Estrada ran under a parliamentary system in 1998, he would have campaigned just as hard all over the country (same as Tony Blair does throughout the UK), and spent just as much money, to make sure his Partido ng Masang Pilipino won the most seats. Since he won 40 percent of the popular vote under the presidential system, his party would have won 40 percent of the seats in a parliamentary system, making it the biggest party. Then, it would have been easy to persuade a small party, like the Liberals, to a coalition. Estrada would have walked into the parliament as prime minister.

Abueva says a parliamentary system will help prevent the election of the head of the government on the basis largely of personal wealth, personal popularity, or name recall as a celebrity as projected in the media or cinema, as we have experienced in our presidential system.

Some of the members of the Indian parliament come from the entertainment industry. In a South American country, an idiot was elected prime minister. In Italy, an avowed prostitute won a seat in the parliament. Dictators like Hitler, Stalin, Mussolini and a passel of African strongmen like Idi Amin came into power under parliamentary systems.

Abueva prefers the parliamentary system because it fuses the executive and legislative power in one body. In other words, the executive department, now headed by the president; the House of Representatives, headed by the Speaker, and the Senate, headed by the Senate President will all be abolished. In their places, the parliament will be created. Under the parliamentary system, De Venecia claims the tensions between the president and Congress will disappear resulting in united government.

But the real reason why De Venecia and his fellow congressmen want to merge the executive and legislative powers in one super-body like the parliament is this: they want full control of the national budget. Under the presidential system, the president prepares the budget, Congress approves it, then the Department of Budget and Management, under the direct hand of the president, spends it. The congressman has to go begging in Malacañang for the release of his pork barrel funds. This is where the tension lies.

It is quite obvious that under the parliamentary system that De Venecia is plotting, the parliament prepares the budget, approves it, and spends it. There is no more tension. Happy days are here again. Abueva does not seem to see the danger. *(Conclusion next week.)*

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Reference: 1. Libecco J and Bergfeld WF. Expert Opin Pharmacother 2004;5(4):933-940
2. Kaufman K. Eur J Dermatol 2002 12:38-49

* In studies, hair has been regrown in MPHL patients, but individual results may vary from patient to patient

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- Restaurants, Bars, Amusement Places, Hotels and Inns, Shopping Centers - September 21 at 9 am
- Services/Contractors - September 28 at 9 am
- Wholesalers, Retailers, Dealers Distributors, Importers - September 28 at 2 pm

(PDI – September 5, 2005)

PNOC eyes exploration projects in Gambia

By Abigail L. Ho

PHILIPPINE National Oil Co. is considering forming a consortium to undertake exploration works in African country Gambia after getting an invitation to explore some blocks there.

PNOC president Edgardo Mañalac said the state firm had conducted initial assessment of available data on six Gambian exploration blocks to help it decide whether to pursue exploration.

"We went there to assess the blocks' hydrocarbon potential. For five blocks, we found very low potential. But there was a sixth block that showed some potential," he told reporters Friday.

However, more studies would have to be made before PNOC decides whether it should form a consortium to explore the sixth block, he said.

"If there's an economic attraction to that sixth prospect, we'll try to build a consortium. If we can form one, then we can go ahead. But we're still calculating the potential of the sixth block. We should be able to respond to (the Gambian government) by the end of the month," he said.

The Gambian government earlier offered PNOC one of the five exploration blocks to explore free of charge. These blocks were found to have little potential after PNOC evaluated available data on them.

However, a sixth block, not part of the original offer, was discovered to have some potential. This was what PNOC was eyeing.

Mañalac said conducting exploration works in Gambia would bring the country closer to other blocks in the African coast that could have some potential.

"It would be a good opportunity," he said. PNOC is forging alliances with different governments to enable it to explore for new oil and gas potentials in other locations.

It actually has a tripartite agreement with the China National Offshore Oil Corp. and Vietnam Oil and Gas Corp. (PetroVietnam) for a three-year seismic survey over a specific part of the South China Sea, including the disputed Spratly Islands.

BSP may ease bank branching rules

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE MONETARY Board is considering a partial relaxation of its rules on banks' branch expansion especially outside Metro Manila.

This was prompted by an internal Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas study that showed that there was still insufficient access to banking services in some areas in the country.

The BSP's Supervision and Examination Sector, headed by Deputy Governor Nestor Espenilla Jr. , conducted the study to determine whether the Philippines was "over-banked."

The study, however, refuted that perception and identified areas that were still underserved by the banking system.

The recommendation was, thus, for the BSP to lift an existing moratorium on opening of new branches in selected areas, especially those with very few banks in operation.

"We compared the density ratio or the number of banks in a given area versus the population in the provinces and even within the National Capital Region, we found out that there are a few cities that are in need of more banks," a source said.

The recommendation had gone past the "first-pass" discussions at the MB level and board members were asked to give their individual comments within this week.

"I wouldn't call it selective liberalization, but a partial liberalization," the source said.

Under the term of BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura, a moratorium on the opening of new branches was imposed to encourage consolidation within the banking system. Such moratorium has so far been effective in encouraging banks which aspire to grow further to speed up their expansion through acquisitions.

Competition, weak peso threaten telcos

SLOWING subscriber growth, increasing competition from an aggressive third player and a volatile foreign exchange are clouding the prospects of the two leading Philippine telecommunications companies, according to Standard & Poor's.

The New York-based rating agency said that strengths of PLDT and Globe were being offset by "slowing domestic subscriber growth and heightened competition."

As of end-June, Globe has 13.6 million mobile subscribers while PLDT's Smart Communications Inc. and Pilipino Telephone Corp. have 20.8 million wireless customers.

PLDT has 2.1 million fixed-line subscribers while Globe's Innove Communications Inc. has about 300,000.

PLDT is more vulnerable to exchange rate volatility because 98 percent of its $1.9- billion debt is denominated in foreign currencies, according to S&P credit analyst Yasmin Wirjawan.

Still, S&P pointed out that both phone carriers have strong free cash to cover their short-term debts.

Globe has P12 billion ($214 million) in free cash, more than enough to cover short-term debts of P9 billion as of end-June.

"Globe's stand-alone credit quality is likely to improve in the medium term if the company continues to strengthen its credit measures while maintaining its solid market position," said Wirjawan.

S&P said that while competition has intensified due to the entry of Digital Telecommunications Ltd., it said that Digitel was unlikely to pose a "significant competitive threat" to PLDT or Globe in the near to medium term.

Still, it said pricing pressures have emerged as existing operators pursue aggressive pricing and promotions to build market share. *Clarissa S. Batino*

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SCHEDULE OF SEMINARS (As of September 2, 2005):

October 6, 2005

1:00 - 3:00pm — New Innovations in Feedmilling (Micropulverizer & Pelletmill) *by:* Belmont / Muyang *(Venue: Seminar Room 1)*

Additional Reasons Why Shipping Costs are High *by:* Distribution Management Assn. of the Phils. *(Venue: Seminar Room 2)*

Bird Flu and Mycotoxins: Emerging Challenges in Asia *by:* Nuevo Milenio *(Venue: Seminar Room 3)*

3:30 - 5:30 — The Importance of Zinc in Piglets / Ang Pundasyon sa Tamang Paglaki / Baboy Mo, Sagot ng Eksperto *by:* Univet/Sarimanok Feeds *(Venue: Seminar Room 1)*

October 7, 2005

10:30am - 5:30pm — *by:* Le' Club *(Venue: Seminar Room 1)*

10:30am - 12:30pm — *by:* Monsanto *(Venue: Seminar Room 2)*

Feeds & Feeding Systems for High Value Marine Products / Opportunities for Small-Scale Mariculture Hatchery Operations *by:* Santeh Feeds *(Venue: Seminar Room 3)*

1:00 - 3:00 — Ultrabiotic More Than an Antibiotic *by:* Agrimate, Inc. *(Venue: Seminar Room 2)*

1:00 - 5:30 — *by:* Livestock Development Council *(Venue: Seminar Room 3)*

October 8, 2005

10:30am - 12:00nn — Agri-Products as Source in the Production of Ethanol and Cogen *by:* Philippine Sugar Millers Association *(Venue: Seminar Room 2)*

10:30am - 12:30pm — Pre-Assessment: A Must in Organic Certification *by:* Organic Producers Trade Association *(Venue: Seminar Room 1)*

Sea Cage Farming: Prospect for Business & Livelihood *by:* Santeh Feeds *(Venue: Seminar Room 3)*

12:30 - 2:00 — Supplying Fresh Produce to the Supermarkets: Self-Operated Fresh Section / Concessionaires Fresh Section *by:* Philippine Amalgamated Supermarket Assn *(Venue: Seminar Room 2)*

1:00 - 3:00 — *by:* San Miguel Foods, Inc. *(Venue: Seminar Room 1)*

1:00 - 5:30 — *by:* Livestock Development Council *(Venue: Seminar Room 3)*

2:30 - 4:00 — *by:* Postharvest Horticulture Research & Training Center *(Venue: Seminar Room 2)*

4:00 - 5:30 — Converting Wastes Into Profit *by:* Organic Producers Trade Association *(Venue: Seminar Room 2)*

EXHIBITORS LIST (As of September 2, 2005):

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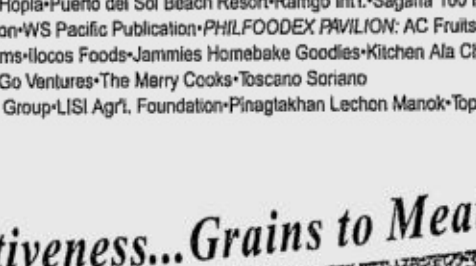

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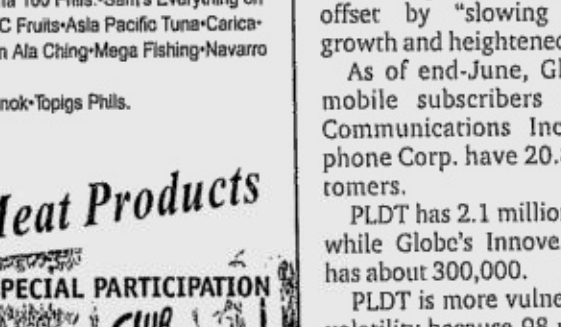

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Investors eye abandoned mines in Davao

By Christine A. Gaylican

FOREIGN and local investors are keen on acquiring the assets previously held by the North Davao Mining Corp. and Batongbuhay Gold Mines Inc.

The abandoned mining areas, said to contain still untapped mineral reserves, have been turned over to the Natural Resources Mining Development Corp. (NRMDC).

"There are at least 26 prospective investors interested in these mining assets recently turned over to us by the Privatization Management Office," said Artemio Disini, NRMDC president.

The investors include the Philippine Metals and Minerals Group Inc., Benguet Corp., Phelps Dodge Exploration Corp., Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp., Apex Mining Co. Inc., China Nonferrous Metals Mining Ltd., Toronto Ventures Inc., Lafayette (Phils.), and East Asia Minerals.

"A forthcoming public bidding for a possible joint venture arrangement with us to develop and explore the North Davao property will be in October this year," Disini said in an interview.

The North Davao concession is located on the boundaries of Mabini and Maco in Compostela Valley. The concession covers 40,000 hectares.

NRDMC was owned by the Elizalde family before it was acquired by the government. It was supposed to be auctioned off by the Asset Privatization Trust.

The Privatization Management Office took over from the APT. Later, the mining assets were transferred to the NRMDC.

The other abandoned mine site to be auctioned off is the former BatongBuhay Gold mine site in Pasil, Kalinga Apayao.

The project area is covered by an approved Mining Lease Contract dated 1981. It covers 444 hectares.

Measures sought to boost bio-fuel trade

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BOARD of Investments wants to relax its rules on export requirements for projects related to bio-fuels to encourage more investments and help the country reduce its dependence on imported oil.

Trade Undersecretary Elmer C. Hernandez, who is also BOI managing head, said the move was part of Malacañang's efforts to ease the effects of the global oil price spike on the country.

So far, Chemrez Inc.'s P980-million bio-diesel project is the only such investment listed with the BOI.

Last June, the incentives-giving body announced it had approved tax perks for the Chemrez project, which would produce bio-diesel using crude coconut oil as raw material input.

Hernandez said that under the guidelines of the Investment Priorities Plan of 2005, projects are no longer needed to be export-oriented to qualify for registration with the BOI.

Chemrez plans to build the country's most modern large-scale bio-diesel plant, which is expected to turn out 50,000 metric tons of the fuel yearly.

A boon for small traders

MICRO and small entrepreneurs of Bulacan may now avail of the services of the Packaging R&D Center established in the province to enable the local traders to penetrate the big supermarkets in the country and selected overseas markets.

The center, which is similar to the Department of Science and Technology's facility in Bicutan, is expected to create more jobs in the province, Bulacan Gov. Josefina dela Cruz said.

"We are the first local government unit to have this kind of facility," Dela Cruz said during the general assembly of the Philippine Science Journalists Association Inc. held in Malolos City. "We put in P10 million to set it up to help the more than 36,000 micro and small enterprises in the province."

There really is a need to direct the interest of the people in science and technology, especially in a developing country like the Philippines, said the first woman governor of Bulacan.

She said that S&T plays a major part in the implementation of priority projects in the province.

The provincial government has provided computers and relevant training programs for teachers and students in all public high schools in the province.

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RFM seen to sustain growth in '05

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

RFM CORP., the flagship company of the Concepcion family, expects to double its growth this year after it earlier reported a net profit of P19 million in the first half.

During the same period last year, RFM reported a net loss of P14 million.

Felicisimo M. Nacino Jr., RFM executive vice president and chief operating officer, said that the increase in volume of mass market products such as juices and milk, and the revitalization of its tropical juice and ice cream brands for the export market, would propel growth for the company this year.

Currently, RFM exports its juice and ice cream products to the United States, Canada and the Middle East. It wants to expand its export business possibly in Europe and the Middle East.

RFM is also taking out Swift Foods Inc. (SFI) out of its books by transferring the shares it holds in the poultry processor to shareholders via a preferred shares issue.

RFM currently holds 139.2 million SFI preferred shares with a par value of P1 a share, and a price of P10 a share.

The preferred shares were not included when RFM issued dividends via common shares of SFI to stockholders in March 2003.

As the Philippine poultry industry continued to suffer in the wake of the bird-flu scare and the influx of imports, SFI incurred significant losses from 2002 to 2004.

Due to these losses, it became necessary for RFM to recognize similar losses in the value of its investments in SFI.

As reported earlier, RFM absorbed in 2004 an "asset-impairment" charge of P556 million from its investment in SFI preferred shares. This turned its operating income of P162 million last year to a net loss of P436 million.

After recognizing these losses, RFM is still left with P836.8 million worth of SFI preferred shares. This means potential losses for RFM of up to the same amount in the event SFI continues to suffer significant losses in the future.

To prevent these losses in the future, RFM last week secured approval from stockholders to reclassify 836.8 million of its unissued common shares into redeemable shares. RFM will issue these redeemable shares as stock dividends.

RFM has additional paid-in capital of P1.05 billion. This can be used to create the 836.8 million redeemable shares. Subsequently, the shares will be redeemed from the stockholders using the SFI preferred shares as the form of payment at the price of one SFI preferred share, for every six redeemable shares.

As a result, the SFI preferred shares would effectively be moved out of RFM and the potential of incurring further losses would be avoided. The redeemed shares will be retired via a decrease in RFM's authorized capital.

Nacino also said RFM would not sell SFI or delist it from the stock market.

PNOC doubles net income in first half

By Abigail L. Ho

THE PHILIPPINE National Oil Co. posted a consolidated net income of close to P5.1 billion in the first half, almost double the P2.9-billion profit it generated in the same period last year.

PNOC president Edgardo Mañalac said the drastic drop in its subsidiaries' interest payments enabled the firm to post a significant profit rise, even though its total sales increased to only P13.4 billion from last year's P12.6 billion.

From a negative P686 million in the first semester of last year, other income and charges jumped to a positive P1.8 billion this year, owing to lower interest charges.

PNOC alone registered a net income of P247.5 billion, just about 5 percent of its consolidated profits.

The bulk of the group's income came from PNOC Energy Development Corp., which posted profits of close to P4 billion, almost double last year's P2.1 billion.

The PNOC group's second largest income contributor was PNOC Exploration Corp. with a January-June net income of P835.2 million from P565.8 million in the same period last year.

Other subsidiaries, PNOC Shipping and Transport Corp., PNOC Development and Management Corp. and PNOC Petrochemical Development Corp., posted first semester net incomes of P8.9 million, P2 million, and P18.4 million, respectively.

Mañalac said that while all PNOC subsidiaries registered positive earnings in the first half, this might not be the case in the second half as other charges get plugged into their income statements.

"Now, all the subsidiaries had net incomes," he said. "By the end of the year, two of the subsidiaries would be at net loss positions due to interest charges and royalty payments."

Royalty payments to the government, as well as some interest charges, were not included in PNOC-EC and PNOC-EDC's books in the first half. These entries should make it to their books by the latter part of the year.

Last year, the PNOC group remitted some P462.5 million in royalty fees to the government.

Other remittances to the national government included P613.8 million in cash dividends and P821.1 million in various taxes.

Modest rally . . .

From page B1

Court allowed the implementation of the VAT law starting July 1," said Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities Inc. in a weekly report.

The benchmark stock market index was up 11.82 points or 0.61 percent last week to 1,946.38 despite a shortened trading week.

Lorenzo said investors would keep track of economic indicators this week, including the release of inflation and export numbers.

"We expect exports to stay weak and inflation to decline compared with last month due to a base effect," Lorenzo said.

Vistan said investors WEre also cautious as they continued to monitor developments in world oil prices and the ongoing impeachment case pending at the House of Representatives against Ms Arroyo.

"These pending issues will continue to have a fairly sizable influence in the coming market sessions. With oil prices flirting at its all-time high levels, we're starting to feel its negative effects on the domestic economy," Vistan said.

"The Philippine economy grew by 4.8 percent in the second quarter, slower than the government's full-year forecast. Now the combination of higher oil prices and politics have fueled the perception that a slowdown is on tap for the second half this year," he added. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 2, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	48,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	53.5	53.5	53	53.5	428,500
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.63	0.66	0.63	0.64	1,420,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	51	51	51	51	19,800
International Exch. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	2,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28	27.5	28	519,500
Phil. Bank Of Comm. A	80	80	80	80	44,700
Philippine National Bank	38	38	38	38	3,000
Phil. Savings Bank	33	33	33	33	200
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Security Bank Corp.	30.5	31	30.5	31	15,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	30	30	30	30	2,100
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2830	2840	2830	2840	330
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	10,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	141	141	141	141	200
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2050	2055	2050	2055	900
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.5	13.5	40,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1	1.02	1	1.02	1,890,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	730	745	730	745	10,080
Ipeople Inc.	2.9	2.95	2.9	2.95	55,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.055	0.0525	0.055	3,900,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	68,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.05	3.05	3	3	1,766,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1610	1615	1610	1615	173,500
Ivantage Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	10,000
Philweb Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	26,200,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	24,200
Manila Electric Co. B	23.25	23.25	23	23	228,000
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.4	6,391,000
Petron Corp.	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.25	1,723,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.28	1.28	1.26	1.28	54,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	200,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	8,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8	8.1	8	8.1	677,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.63	0.64	0.63	0.64	150,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	207,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.5	0.55	0.5	0.55	2,360,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3	3	3	3	732,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.45	107,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31.5	31.5	30.5	30.5	25,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	34.5	35	34.5	35	186,600
RFM Corp.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	30,000
San Miguel Corp. A	66.5	66.5	65.5	66	24,400
San Miguel Corp. B	95	95	94.5	94.5	144,500
Universal Robina Corp.	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	49,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	710,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	40,000,000
Ayala Corp.	295	297.5	295	297.5	46,520
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	100,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.95	4.95	4.95	4.95	128,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.025	0.026	0.024	0.026	24,100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	76,000
APC Group Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.26	0.26	1,050,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	9,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.73	0.78	0.73	0.76	1,540,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	18,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	200,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.12	1.14	1.1	1.1	2,010,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.245	0.25	0.245	0.25	4,090,000
CADP Group Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	320,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.2	0.235	0.2	0.21	300,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.245	0.26	0.24	0.24	4,610,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.1	3.1	3	3	1,473,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.8	402,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	44	44	43	43	265,100
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.075	0.0725	0.075	1,000,000
House Of Investments Inc.	0.98	1	0.98	1	490,000
Ionics Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	120,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.45	3.45	959,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	5,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	875,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.34	0.35	0.33	0.34	8,850,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.225	0.23	0.225	0.23	480,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1	1.06	1	1.06	50,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	140,000
SM Investments Corp.	207	211	207	210	259,690
South China Resources Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	320,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	20,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.175	0.18	0.17	0.17	1,590,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	690,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	8,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.96	1.02	0.96	0.97	20,230,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	1,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.75	0.8	0.75	0.79	1,180,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.56	1.56	1.54	1.56	1,511,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PdR)	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	45,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
OTHERS					
Far Eastern University	600	600	600	600	100
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.7	7.8	15,197,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	37,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	20,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	400,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	1,850,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	340,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.36	1.38	1.36	1.36	1,918,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.205	0.205	0.2	0.205	310,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	100,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	3.95	3.95	3.95	3.95	1,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.17	0.175	0.17	0.175	620,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.1	7.1	7	7	8,431,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.0085	27,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.9	6.9	6.6	6.6	1,103,000
Benguet Corp. A	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	30,000
Benguet Corp. B	22	22	22	22	200
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	31,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.36	0.37	0.34	0.35	3,340,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.38	0.38	0.36	0.36	12,740,000
Manila Mining Corp A	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	177,700,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.025	0.025	0.024	0.024	105,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	200,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.87	0.92	0.87	0.88	8,120,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.12	1.16	1.1	1.1	10,719,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28.5	29	28.5	29	360,300
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.39	0.39	0.35	0.35	1,950,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.008	0.0075	0.008	384,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min B	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.0085	177,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	70,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.41	0.42	0.41	0.42	120,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.5	3.75	3.5	3.7	275,000
Simophil Corp.	0.14	0.15	0.14	0.145	42,080,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.43	0.44	0.42	0.43	530,000

CURRENCIES

September 2, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.800705	1	56.207
Japan	Yen	0.00729	0.009105	0.5118
United Kingdom	Pound	1.467611	1.8329	103.0218
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.103068	0.128722	7.2351
Switzerland	Franc	0.648134	0.809454	45.497
Canada	Dollar	0.676614	0.845023	47.4962
Singapore	Dollar	0.477662	0.596552	33.5304
Australia	Dollar	0.609596	0.761325	42.7918
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.123998	2.652661	149.0981
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.213504	0.266645	14.9873
Brunel	Dollar	0.476241	0.594778	33.4307
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000078	0.000098	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.019529	0.02439	1.3709
UAE	Dirham	0.218009	0.272272	15.3036
Euro	Euro	1	1.2489	70.1969
Argentina	Peso	0.27563	0.344234	19.3484
Brazil	Real	0.338708	0.423012	23.7762
Denmark	Kroner	0.134132	0.167518	9.4157
India	Rupee	0.018222	0.022758	1.2792
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.212332	0.265182	14.9051
Mexico	New Peso	0.074567	0.093127	5.2344
New Zealand	Dollar	0.562886	0.702988	39.5128
South Africa	Rand	0.127165	0.158816	8.9266
Korea	Won	0.000776	0.000969	0.0545
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024482	0.030575	1.7185

G&W Club Shares
FREE PLAYING RIGHTS AVAILABLE As of September 5, 2005

CLUB	SHARES AVAILABLE SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A/B*	1,100,000/1,250,000*	1,000,000/1,150,000*
Alta Vista Corp.	550,000	300,000
Baguio Country Club	40,000	-
Calatagan Golf	-	140,000
Camp John Hay	-	450,000
Canlubang Golf	120,000	-
Canyon Woods	60,000	-
Capitol Hills	1,500,000	-
Cebu Country Club	120,000	100,000
Celebrity Sports	375,000	90,000
City Sports Club Cebu	Pls. Call	150,000/250,000*
Club Filipino	180,000/Pls. Call**	-
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	Pls. Call	-
Eastridge A/B*	65,000	-
Evercrest	130,000/200,000*	-
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	Pls. Call	-
Manila Golf Corporate	Pls. Call	-
Manila Golf Individual	2,150,000	-
Manila Polo	280,000	650,000
Manila Southwoods A/B*	200,000	Pls. Call
Makati Sports Club	120,000/150,000*	-
Metropolitan Club A/B*	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Mimosa C2/C3*	230,000	180,000
Mt. Malarayat A	180,000/Pls. Call/430,000**	150,000/250,000**
Orchard A/B*/C**	Pls. Call	-
Puerto Azul	Pls. Call	-
Punta Fuego	150,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	90,000/150,000*/250,000**	-
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	45,000	-
Riviera Sports	Pls. Call	-
Rockwell Leisure Club	80,000	-
Royale Tagaytay CC	70,000/150,000**	-
Sherwood A/C**	650,000	-
Spa & Lodge	1,200,000/1,500,000*	1,100,000
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	500,000	-
The Palms Country Club	Pls. Call	-
Tagaytay Country Club	750,000	-
Tagaytay Highlands	Pls. Call	-
Tagaytay Midlands	2,000,000	-
The Country Club	Pls. Call	-
Tower Club	220,000	-
Valley Golf	120,000	-
Valle Verde Ind.	6,300,000	-
Wack Wack Golf		

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F.V. DEL ROSARIO HOLDINGS, INC.
GF Texcon Bldg 114 V.A.Rufino St. Legaspi Village, Makati City

G & A Club Shares
SEC License Broker #007575 * As of September 5, 2005

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,100,000	1,000,000
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Canyon Woods	125,000	-
Capitol Hills	80,000	-
Cebu Country Club	1,500,000	1,300,000
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Forest Hills "B"	200,000	-
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Makati Sports Club "A"	220,000	-
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Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	230,000	-
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Tagaytay Country Club	330,000	300,000
Tagaytay Highlands	750,000	650,000
Tagaytay Midlands	650,000	600,000
The Palms Country Club	530,000	-
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DOF whips GOCCs into shape

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance is set to come out with performance contracts that will force heavily losing government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOOCs) to shape up.

Failure to comply with the contracts would mean dissolution or privatization for the GOCCs, the DOF said.

Finance Secretary Margarito "Gary" Teves said the DOF was looking at implementing the performance contracts for 2006.

He is hoping that the contracts will result in a marked improvement in the financial standing of the state-owned firms, especially the distressed ones.

Teves said GOCCs would be classified into three types depending on their mandates: profit-oriented, cost-centered, and service centered state-owned companies. Their classification will determine the type of contract they will have to observe.

He said the GOCCs, established for the purpose of generating revenues for the government, would be assessed based on the profit they earned, while the rest would be evaluated based on the fulfillment of their mandates.

"We (DOF and concerned GOCCs) have to mutually agree on the objectives," Teves told reporters. "If they don't perform according to the contracts, then they could be phased out or sold."

The finance chief said the DOF would initially come up with contracts for the 14 monitored GOCCs.

These are National Power Corp., National Electrification Administration, Local Water Utilities Administration, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, Home Guarantee Corp., National Housing Authority, Light Rail Transit Authority, Philippine National Oil Co., National Irrigation Administration, National Development Co., Philippine Ports Authority, Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Philippine National Railways and National Food Authority.

For this year, the 14 monitored GOCCs are expected to post a combined budget deficit of P42.5 billion this year. Although still a deficit, the figure is already a significant improvement from the actual budget gap of P90.7 billion recorded in 2004.

The DOF earlier said the expected improvement in the fiscal standing of the state-owned firms was due to the sale of some of the assets of Napocor, which accounted for the bulk of the combined deficits last year. The DOF likewise cited this year the relatively lower interest rate, which served to trim down the cost of debt servicing by the GOCCs.

At present, the GOCCs are being reviewed for possible rationalization of their organizational setup.

Officials from the DOF and the Department of Budget and Management met last week to continue discussing the rationalization plan.

A finance official said the rationalization plan is scheduled to initially cover those that are heavily losing and are highly subsidized by the national government.

Under the rationalization plan, functions that are deemed unnecessary to fulfill a GOCC's mandate would be dissolved, while some missing functions might be created.

The official said the DOF has put on its list of priorities the need to turn distressed GOCCs into financially independent units.

TEVES

The rationalization plan is in accordance with the issuance of Executive Order No. 366.

SEC's plans for CAP put on hold

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE CREATION of a management committee that will take over the troubled pre-need firm College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. may be put on hold after the company filed for rehabilitation with a local court last week.

An official of the Securities and Exchange Commission said however that CAP's rehabilitation plan would not prevent the SEC from exercising its regulatory powers such as imposing sanctions on the company for perceived violations.

CAP earlier told the Makati Regional Trial Court that there was a need for the immediate suspension of payment of all claims against the company.

CAP officials explained that they decided to go to court to keep its business going. They said that this was the only way they could discharge their obligations to their plan holders.

CAP officials also said that they were forced to make the legal turn when the SEC threat to take over management became imminent.

CAP officials are afraid that the takeover will lead to the liquidation of the pre-need firm.

"In deference to the proceedings in court, we may [hold off] the appointment of a management committee," SEC commission secretary Gerard Lukban said. "Any effort on our part may be rendered academic."

Lukban explained that once a company filed for rehabilitation, the court would usually appoint a receiver to implement the rehabilitation plan.

"The receiver is also appointed to safeguard the assets ... of creditors or, in this case, the plan holders," Lukban said. "This is the same goal we want to achieve if and when we create a management committee."

CAP has admitted that it will be unable to service its debts falling due. CAP also said that it has more liabilities than assets.

CAP has proposed under an eight-year business development plan to build up its capital to P8.36 billion, and its trust fund to P14.36 billion.

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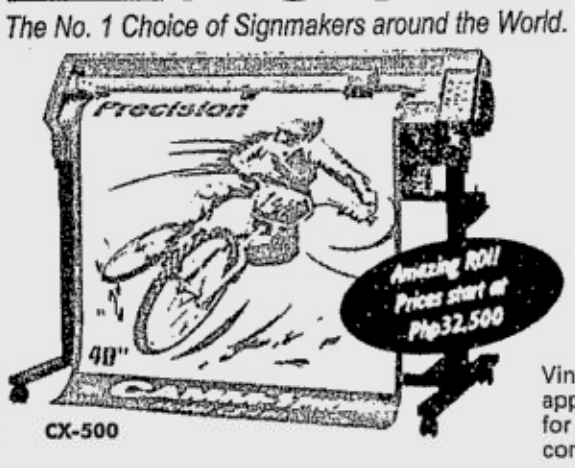

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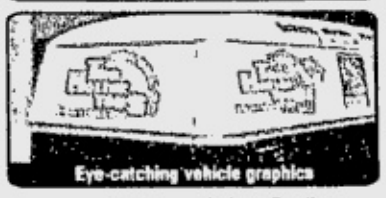

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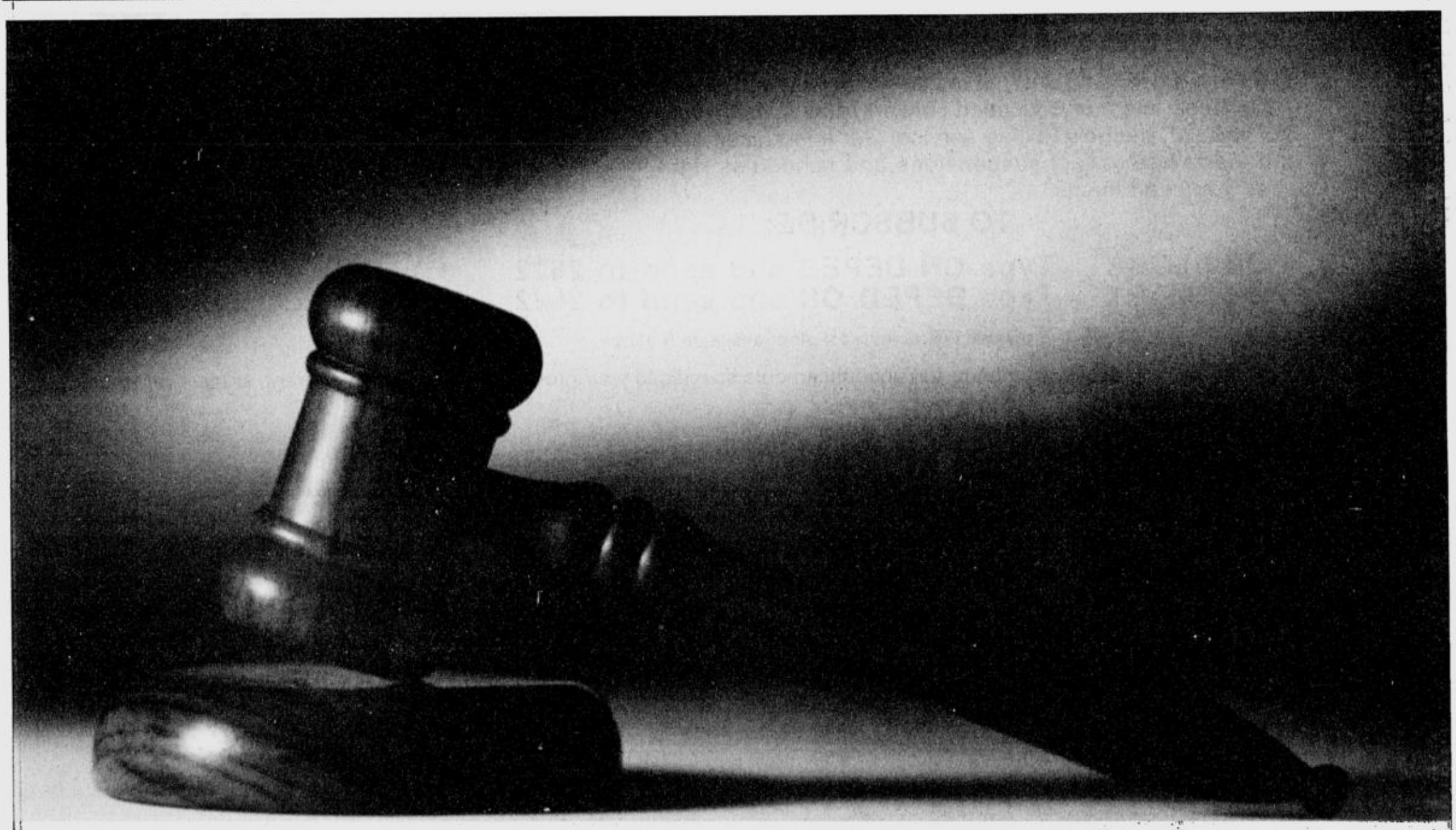

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PCCI pushes increased carabao milk production

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE COUNTRY'S biggest business group is pushing for the increased production of carabao milk to help reduce the country's dependence on imported dairy products.

Donald G. Dee, president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the group was looking at successful milk production campaigns in India, Pakistan and China that can be replicated in the country.

"The continued rise of our import bill against export earnings is expected considering the minimal resources government has in promoting export businesses," Dee said.

"We must increase our exports to or step up production of items that take up significant parts of imports such as dairy products," he said.

The PCCI chief said some P497 million worth of milk was shipped in from abroad in 2004.

Government data show that in the past decade, imports of fresh milk was growing at a rate of 28 percent a year while domestic production was generally declining, although there was growth of up to 6 percent yearly in certain years.

Dee said the private sector was also pushing for the establishment of a body that would facilitate lending to small and medium businesses by maximizing a lending fund that has grown to P5.5 billion.

He said the government has shown that there were ample supply of funds for small businesses but that the problem was how to make it easy for entrepreneurs to secure loans.

Dee said efforts were under way to put up a Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Surety Fund with an initial P1 billion from the World Bank's Industrial Guarantee and Loan Fund.

He said the government, through the IGLF, could work with a public sector-initiated SME Development Center, which would manage the P1-billion MSME Surety Fund.

"The objective is to increase availability and effectiveness of risk capital to SMEs," he said. "The fund will provide guarantee for SMEs with little or no collateral but have strong cash flows."

According to the Institute for Development and Econometric Analysis Inc., an Asian Development Bank study made in 2003 showed that the biggest constraint in existing lending programs for SMEs was that loan decisions depended on collateral such as land.

Cayetano Paderanga, who heads IDEA Inc., added that other past studies suggest that SMEs could not avail of available funds because loan requirements were too difficult to comply with.

"With the MSME Surety Fund, we can make it easy for prospective milk producers to secure loans for buying carabaos that are bred to yield more milk than the average cattle," Dee said.

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Cocktales

From page B3

Two, Imelda Nicolas and Lorna Kapunan, listed office buildings in Makati, with Kapunan putting down the A. Soriano building as her residence. A corporate lawyer and corporate governance lecturer, Kapunan was then (and still now) working for the American billionaire Andres Soriano III, and San Miguel Corp.

But a more substantive deficiency happened after the incorporation.

Diwata never filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission any financial statement to report what had happened to the Canadian millions.

Even the Women's Action Network for Development, the supposed beneficiary, never even filed an SEC statement, if the organization was ever legally organized.

The closest the SEC had for such an organization was Women's Action for Community Development of Sto. Domingo Inc., a defunct peasant NGO in Sto. Domingo, Nueva Ecija.

AY money, other banks' gravy

TAIPAN Alfonso Yuchengco's bank provided the "laway" capital that enabled CODE-NGO to receive P1.4 billion from the controversial Peace Bond transaction, where RCBC bought and sold a block of government bonds and then turned over the P1.4 billion markup to the network of non-governmental organizations headed by a sister of then Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

The windfall has since been donated by CODE-NGO to another NGO, the Peace and Equity Foundation, headed by Jesuit priest Noel Vasquez.

The first thing the Atenean did with the AY gravy—the taipan happens to be a La Sallite—was to pull out the entire caboodle from RCBC and RCBC Capital, and deposit more than P1.04 billion to ING Bank, with the balance split between Deutsche Bank and Asia United Bank.

Incidentally, why RCBC was moved to such generosity, when its ailing sister company Pacific Plans could very well use the financial infusion, remains a mystery.

Heard through the grapevine

AS in Edsa I and Edsa II, activist NGOs have now started funneling their foreign and local grants to finance the oust-GMA campaign.

(E-mail: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

Price war shifts . . .

From page B1

DSL subscribers with Plans 2500 and up will enjoy a rate of 10 US cents a minute while subscribers with Plans 1995 and below will enjoy a rate of 15 US cents a minute.

Jimenez said the rates would be 62 to 75 percent cheaper against the 40 US cents a minute.

To offset any negative impact on its overseas revenues, Jimenez said PLDT would aggressively pursue DSL connections and upgrades.

"These new IDD rates bundled with our DSL subscriptions will drive more people to hook up to our broadband service. Also, we see some of those in Plan 1995 and below upgrading their plan to 2500 and above," he said.

DSL subscribers who want an even lower rate than 10 US cents can get PLDT's VoicePad service. This is a PC-to-phone service where DSL subscribers just need to log on to the PLDT myPad website and use the soft dialer from that site to call overseas for as low as 8 US cents a minute.

Tough competition had been bringing down telecom prices, according to NTC Chair Ronald Solis, saying these innovative deals were benefiting consumers.

Sun Cellular, which set off a price war in October 2004 when it launched its unlimited, within-network 24/7 pricing, started offering its Daylite Call and Text Unlimited.

With the new deal, Sun Cellular will charge a peso for every minute of within-network calls from 6 p.m. to a minute before midnight. But from midnight to a minute before 6 a.m., calls within Sun Cellular network will remain unlimited. Within-network text messaging will remain free all day long. Sun's 24/7 promo remains in effect even with these new offerings.

Globe is offering a new Celebrate promo that charges only P10 for every three-minute call and P15 for unlimited texting for 24 hours. Globe's nonstop, within-network text promo is also available for P25 for two days and P50 for five days.

PLDT had confined its P10-a-call promo strictly within the PLDT fixed-line network of 2.1 million subscribers.

Lateral attrition . . .

From page B1

The shortfall mostly resulted from the BIR's poor collection performance in July. In August, however, the BIR recovered and exceeded its collection target for the month by P3.3 billion. Compared with the August revenue target of 51.8 billion, the BIR collected P55.1 billion.

But Customs collections in August fell short of its P12.8-billion target at only P12.2 billion.

Under the lateral attrition law, officials and employees of the BIR and the BOC who would fall short of their respective revenue collection targets by 7.5 percent or bigger would be dismissed from service.

The Revenue Performance Evaluation Board, which will be created specifically to implement the lateral attrition law, will be the one to determine the procedures in evaluating the performance of concerned officials and employees.

The board will likewise be tasked to facilitate the implementation of the system of distributing incentives to revenue district offices that will surpass their revenue collection targets.

The lateral attrition law does not only seek to remove from service under-performing BIR and BOC officials and employees, but also grants incentives to those who would over-perform.

Under the law, concerned officials and employees would be given a collective incentive equivalent to 15 percent of the excess collection if the excess is 30 percent or below.

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ECONOMIC DATA

Wall St. to get clues to Katrina's impact

NEW YORK—Investors will get a look at economic data in the upcoming holiday-shortened week that could begin to shed light on Hurricane Katrina's impact as the stock market grapples with rising gasoline prices and interest rates.

The weekly data on store sales, unemployment claims and oil inventories—which usually are not big market movers—will take on added weight as the first signs of how the economy fared after what some say may be the largest insured loss in US history.

Katrina triggered an energy crunch this week that sent gasoline prices well above $3 a gallon and set off flooding that devastated New Orleans, contributing to losses that one risk modeler estimated could cost the economy more than $100 billion.

Fed may hold rates

The storm's impact on the economy and signs of slowing growth raised hopes on Wall Street the Federal Reserve may pause in its campaign of raising interest rates.

"The two likely things influencing the market this week is the direction of energy prices and the impression that the Fed is going to stop raising rates," said Joe Liro, market strategist at Stone & McCarthy Research Associates.

Wall Street economists say there is a chance the Fed could temporarily halt its rate hikes, which are considered a negative for stocks as they increase borrowing costs for companies and consumers.

The Fed will be closely watching how long the disruption to gasoline prices lasts, but it will not have a full month's data since Katrina hit the Gulf Coast on Monday by the time of its next policy meeting on Sept. 20 to assess the economic fallout.

Dow Jones up

Despite moderate losses on Friday, stocks ended the week higher. The Dow Jones industrial average ended up 0.5 percent at 10,447, the Nasdaq Composite index rose 1 percent to 2,141 and the Standard & Poor's 500 Index gained 1.1 percent to 1,218.

US crude oil and gasoline futures plummeted on Friday after the International Energy Agency prepared to tap up to two million barrels per day of emergency reserves to ease the US energy crunch.

Oil prices ease

October gasoline settled down 22.53 cents at $2.1837 per gallon on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Crude for October delivery settled down $1.90 at $67.57 a barrel.

But in Katrina's wake oil climbed near $71 a barrel, and high oil prices not only increase energy costs for corporations, they also hurt consumer spending on discretionary items.

"It is a well known fact that the net effect of hurricanes is neutral, as the slack in the consumer sector is offset by an uptick in earnings of energy companies and construction companies," said Som Dasgupta, head of equities trading at PNC Corporate Bank. "But this time around, I don't think it will be that neutral. The consumer sector is going to suffer quite a bit."

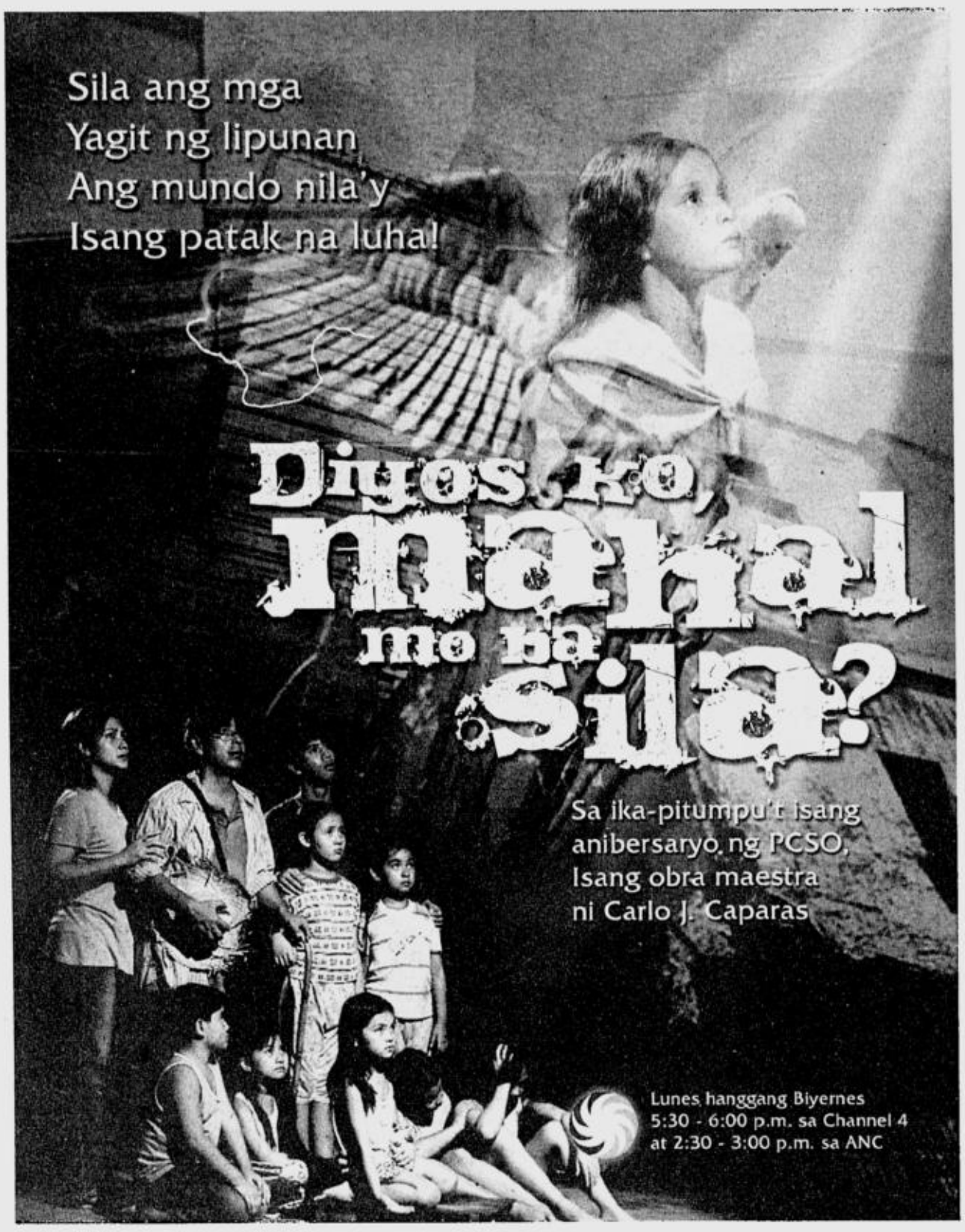
Retailers suffer

While energy companies and companies involved in the reconstruction or relief efforts are expected to gain following the onslaught of Katrina, many retailers, casinos, insurers and airlines could suffer.

"The investor will be sensitive to any signs that the sharp spike in energy prices is going to derail the consumer sector, the overall economy and corporate profit growth in the fourth quarter," Liro said.

Investors will scour weekly US chain store sales data on Tuesday. US financial markets will be closed on Monday to observe the Labor Day holiday.

Weekly oil inventory data is scheduled for release on Wednesday and jobless claims data for the week ending Sept. 3 are due on Thursday. *Reuters*



P10 million at stake in PCSO Sweepstakes Christmas Draw

THE TRADITIONAL SWEEPstakes draw is back.

Only this time, officials of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) have deemed it wise to offer bigger prizes in a bid to catch up with the sales take of the agency's more popular lotto games.

PCSO General Manager Rosario C. Uriarte announced that the agency would begin selling tickets for the traditional sweepstakes on September 8, 2005, as PCSO celebrates its 71st anniversary.

For the first draw, to be held on December 18, 2005, buyers of sweepstakes tickets priced at P10 per ticket have a chance to win P10-million first prize, P2-million second prize and P1-million third prize.

Aside from offering bigger prizes for the winners, Uriarte explained that the revival of the traditional sweepstakes would enable PCSO to raise an additional P11 million for its Charity Fund, just for its December 18 Christmas Draw alone.

As stated in the PCSO Charter, 30 percent of all earnings from sweepstakes and lotto sales go to charity. The Charity Fund is the PCSO's sole source of funds used for rendering medical assistance to indigent individuals and for providing endowments to hospitals.

Carlos M. Castillo, PCSO OIC-Department Manager for Sales, said the traditional sweepstakes would also serve as a livelihood program for the underprivileged sector as well as non-government and people's organizations that are willing to work with PCSO as agents or dealers.

A ticket booklet for the traditional sweepstakes contains 100 tickets, or a value of P1,000 but it will be sold for P720 each, or an earning of P280 per booklet for a ticket seller.

What's more, Castillo said, an agent who sold the winning ticket is entitled to 10 percent seller's prize or P1 million out of the P10-million first prize.

He added that the PCSO Board of Directors have agreed to increase the commission for agents from three percent (3%) to six percent (6%) for those able to sell less than 299 booklets, and from four percent (4%) to eight percent (8%) for those able to sell 300 booklets and more.

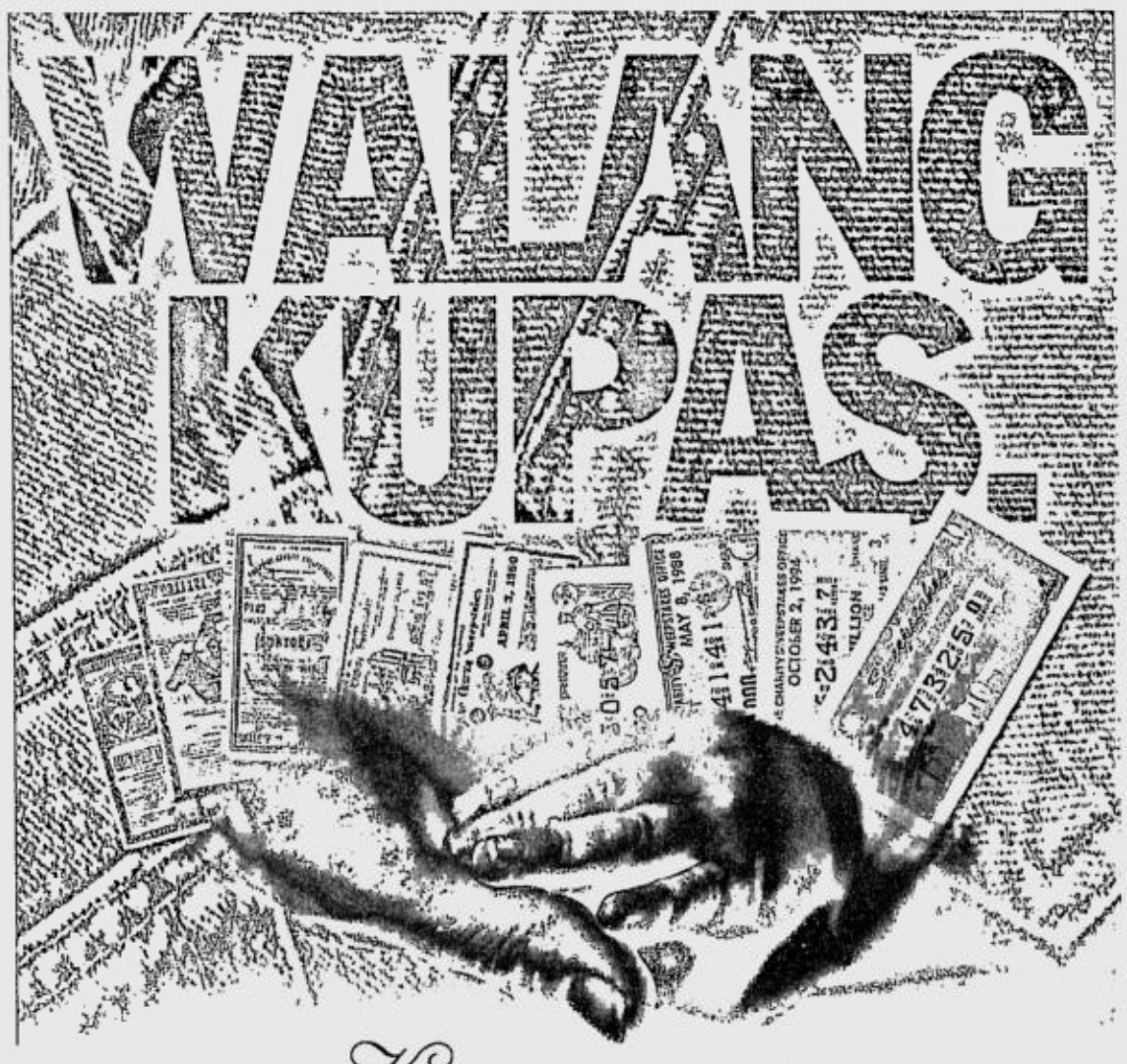
Castillo stressed that the increase in agents' commission is expected to lure back former agents that were displaced when lotto sales revenues began outstripping the sales take of sweepstakes tickets.

"We hope our former partners, especially the underprivileged and physically-challenged, will join us in reviving public interest in the sweepstakes. The PCSO increased the agents' commission with them in mind," he said.

Aside from these sectors, Castillo said the PCSO is negotiating with socio-civic groups and non-government organizations (NGOs) for possible tie-ups with PCSO in marketing the enhanced sweepstakes.

These groups, he added, are expected to boost sweepstakes sales in tandem with the marketing arm of the PCSO, which takes its strength from its 25 provincial district offices (PDOs), 40 provincial distributors (PDs) and 26 sales supervisors.

The Sweepstakes Christmas Draw will be held at 12 noon of December 18, 2005, at the PCSO Draw Court, PCSO Compound, E. Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City.



PCSO releases P1.35B in charity funds as lotto earnings swell to P8B

By Dmitri Arce

ROBUST SALES PERFORMANCE of lotto augured well for the PCSO's Charity Fund, which is an automatic 30 percent of all earnings from lottery games, PCSO officials said.

For the period of January to July of this year, PCSO released a total of P1.35 billion in charity funds for numerous medical and humanitarian assistance programs of the agency.

These include regular funds assistance to hospitals, medical institutions and local government unit (LGU) medical programs.

For the first seven months of 2005, PCSO assisted a total of 28,468 poor Filipinos under its Individual Medical Assistance Program (IMAP).

It also reached 74,746 persons who are beneficiaries of its medical missions, accounting for P2.5 million worth of medicines.

PCSO officials added that charity work projections for the last four months of the year remain rosy, owing to the strong public support and patronage of lotto.

More and more people are taking a shot at the millionaire's circle as indicated by the increase in sales of lotto games by P1.72 billion this year compared to last year.

For the first seven months of 2005, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) reported revenues of about P8.02 billion as opposed to earnings the same period last year of P6.3 billion.

The 27 percent jump in sales from 2004 is attributed to increased patronage of all the lotto games and big jackpot prizes.

Actual sales from January to July of this year posted a 43-percent increase from sales figures during the same period in 2003, which is about P5.6 billion.

The month of July posted the highest sales to date, at P1.25 billion. This is an increase of almost P300 million from the same month last year.

In fact, actual sales figures in July of this year surpassed projections by P189.2 million, or 18 percent higher. PCSO earlier projected a P1.06 billion in sales for the month of July this year. Strong public support for lotto, however, pushed sales to P1.25 billion.

PCSO recorded increases in sales in all the seven months of this year.

The month of February posted the highest increase in sales for any month to date, posting a whopping upsurge of P343 million compared to the same month in 2004. It was during this month that the jackpot prize for Mega Lotto 6/45 reached P128 million, subsequently won on February 18.

PCSO has seven online lottery games: Super Lotto 6/49, Mega Lotto 6/45, Lotto 6/42, 6 Digit, 4 Digit, Digit and, the newest game, the EZ

SUPACHAI Panitchpakdi, right, secretary general of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad) speaks with German Heiner Flassbeck, left, officer-in-charge, Division on Globalization and Development Strategies during presentation of the Launch of the Trade and Development Report 2005, at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. AP

Unctad cites risks to world economy

GENEVA—The global economy faces serious risks of a slowdown, the UN Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad) said in its annual report Friday.

Unctad said that economic growth was set to drop to 3 percent this year, from 3.8 percent in 2004.

"The world economy is still expanding, but there are serious risks of a setback, and the moderation of growth over the first half of 2005 should serve as a warning," the organization said in its Trade and Development Report.

Unctad pointed to the lengthy stagnation of the eurozone and Japan, saying this was a persistent source of instability.

In addition, it expressed concerns about the international impact of a slowdown in the United States.

"The main engine of growth, the US economy, may run out of steam before other countries or regions are able to take over that role," it said.

Unctad urged a reduction in the US trade deficit, which last year reached a record $666 billion (531.3 billion euros).

But it said this should not be done via a devaluation of the Chinese yuan, because such a move could harm economies across Asia, which is a major driver of world economic growth.

Unctad noted that Japan and Germany together accounted for 30 percent of the global current account surplus in 2004, compared with 8 percent for China—which has come under the most pressure to revalue its currency.

Reviving the European and Japanese economies is the key to restoring global economic stability, it said.

It urged a "massive expansion of demand in the euro area," through a mix of lowered interest rates and salary increases.

Developing countries, meanwhile, are also showing signs of weakness, with forecast growth of 5-5.5 percent compared with 6.5 percent in 2004.

While oil price rises have helped producer countries, "the oil bill is becoming really quite a heavy burden for many developing countries in general compared to more advanced countries," said Unctad's new chief, Supachai Panitchpakdi of Thailand.

Supachai, previously head of the World Trade Organization, took up his post at UNCTAD on Thursday.

While wealthy countries have in recent years adopted energy-saving policies to cut oil use, "the way emerging economies are using oil has not been as efficient as it could be," Supachai told reporters.

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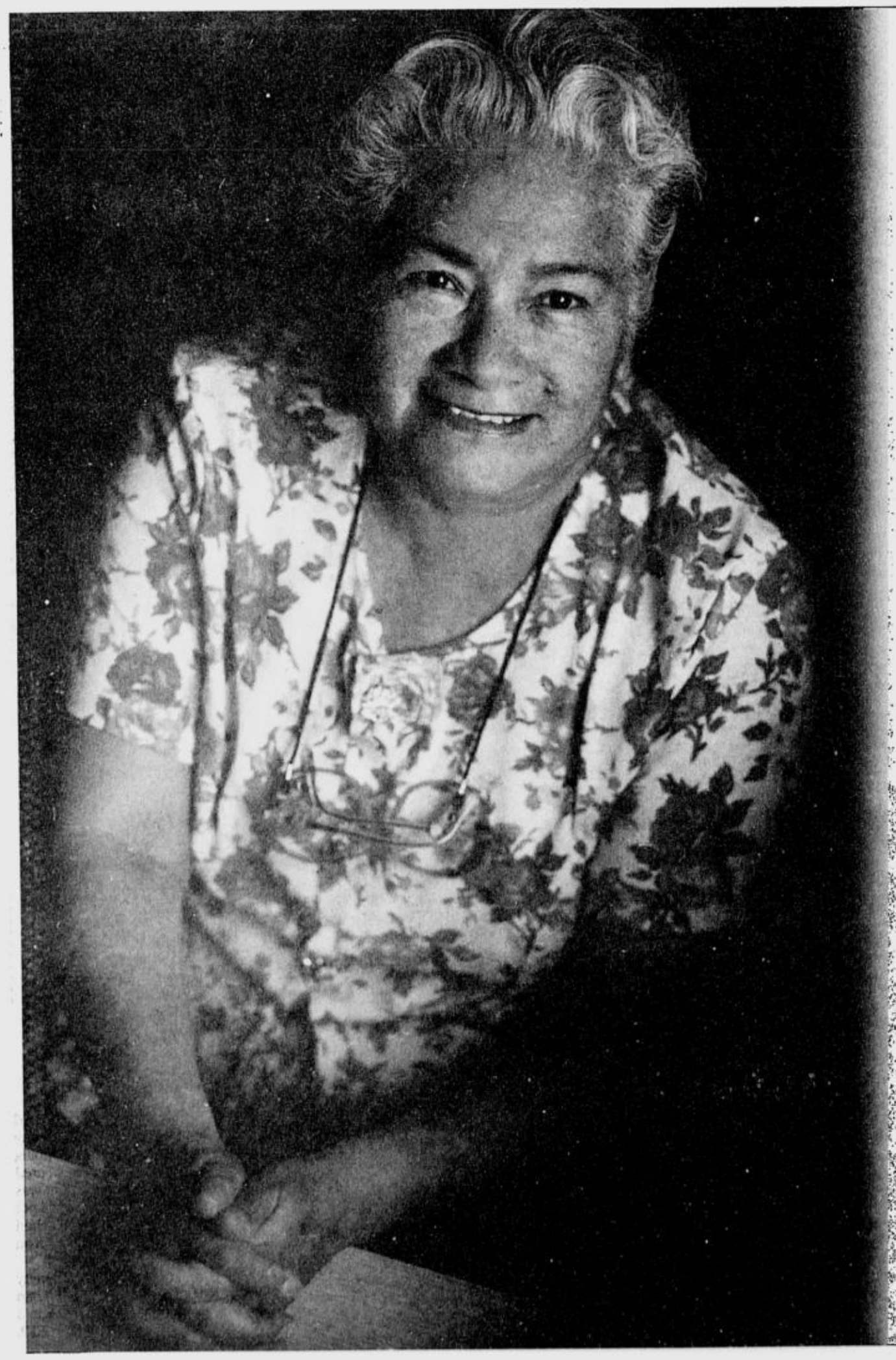

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People, Events & Products

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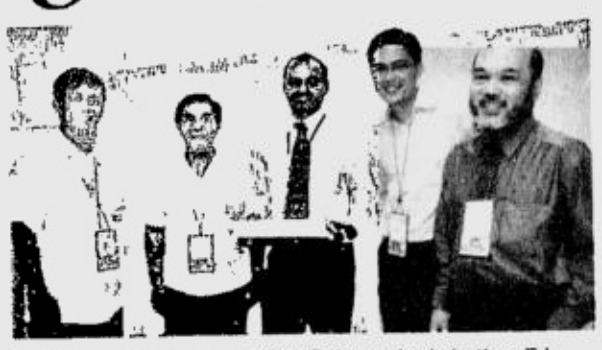
Editor Aries Espinosa

Success strategies revealed at Pana MBA confab

The marketing industry recently received a shot in the arm through the efforts of the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana), which recently conducted its first Pana MBA: Marketing and Brand Advancement at The Loft, Rockwell, Makati City. The pioneering seminar engaged young and experienced marketing professionals alike to the nuances of emerging industry practices here and abroad.



PANA board of directors Atoy Babasa, Junie Lutian, Ed Sunico and Ricky Estrada present a token of gratitude to Milliward Brown Asia Pacific director for marketing solutions Shivkumar Moulee (center) who discussed about 'Making the Most Out of Your Brands'.

WYETH Philippines associate marketing director Gina Rose S. Dobles shares her expertise on brand positioning.

LOWE Worldwide Executive Creative Director Raul Castro shared his insight on creative advertising with program host Ricky Carandang and the Pana MBA participants.

ANC broadcast journalist Ricky Carandang hosts the first ever PANA MBA: Marketing and Brand Advancement held to a full-capacity audience at The Loft in Rockwell.

PROCTER & Gamble Philippines country media manager Pauline Lao stressed the foundational role of strong product positioning in increasingly hectic product categories.

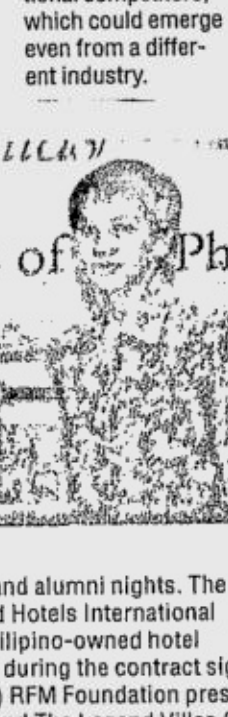
MEMBERS of the Pana board of directors confer a token of gratitude to Nokia Philippines product manager for customer and market operations Rhomel Marcojos (2nd from right), who spoke about the impact of a product's innovative edge in the marketplace.

SUPPLY chain expert Noel Bautista of IDS Logistics discussed the links that hold together an effective supply chain.

NESTLÉ Philippines senior vice president Robert Vallender shares his expertise on supply chain management.

AC NIELSEN Philippines executive director Feddie Magpantay with event host Ricky Carandang.

WILFRED Steven Uytengsu Jr (2nd from left), president and COO of Alaska Milk Corp, receives token of appreciation from Pana director Atoy Babasa, president Belen Fernando, and directors Tina Esguerra, Angie Padilla and management consultant Ricky Estrada.



UNILEVER Philippines marketing manager Benjie Yap bids the Pana MBA participants to also keep an eye on a brand's non-traditional competitors, which could emerge even from a different industry.

Media, Splash, GMA, Philippine Airline and Stratworks Inc. Also taking part as minor sponsors are The Coca Cola Export Corp, "Eat Bulaga", Sky DSL, MBC, RMN, Signum Event Engineering and DOST.

With an attendance of nearly three hundred entrepreneurs, marketing practitioners and students, the affair was one of the best attended industry seminars focusing on best practices and breakthrough concepts in the key areas of research, product development, supply chain management and marketing communications

Keynote speaker Wilfred Steven Uytengsu Jr, president and COO of Alaska Milk Corp, led the roster of speakers in drawing attention to the vigorously changing landscape of the local industry and what it implies to the marketing professionals. Uytengsu explained that since consumers have more choices today, marketing professionals must not only take the initiative to tell the people what to choose, but also, to tell it in a very captivating way.

Millward Brown Asia Pacific director for marketing solutions Shivkumar Moulee and AC Nielsen Philippines executive director Feddie Magpantay made the case for the growing impact of marketing research within the industry. Moulee made the case for a dynamic international brand leadership paradigm that was based on extensive research. He stressed that as brands evolve, marketers should be to broaden the consumer's experience with their brand and create more touch points. Magpantay shared the latest research findings on the profiles of the Filipino as consumers. Among her strongest recommendations were for marketing professionals to tap the underserved low-end market as well as those in the countryside and the increasing number of "empty nesters".

The theme on research was carried over to the next segment on product development when Unilever Philippines marketing manager Benjie Yap and Nokia Philippines product manager for customer and market operations Rhomel Marcojos discussed the innovative ways of dealing with the changing market demands. Yap encouraged marketing professionals to look beyond their product categories as the biggest threat against their brand could also come from a totally different industry. Marcojos, meanwhile, illustrated how a company may lead in the innovation game with a sharing of Nokia's successful marketing experience.

IDS Logistics managing director Noel Bautista, together with Nestlé Philippines senior vice president Robert Vallender provided the participants with a contemporary conceptual framework to understand how supply chain management impacts other marketing endeavors and vice versa. They agreed that a marketing campaign could defeat its purpose and even backfire if it runs contrary to a pragmatic set of supply chain values. Procter & Gamble Philippines country media manager Pauline Lao and Wyeth Philippines associate marketing director Gina Rose S. Dobles took turns to discuss the changing dynamics of product positioning especially as it applies in the overcrowded Philippine market. They noted that as the market fragments into ever changing and increasing consumer segments, so must a product's positioning be constantly transformed.

Pana MBA reached its climax with the three-part back-to-back discussions on different areas of marketing communications. McCann Erickson Philippines AVP and strategic planning director Hans Lopez-Vito shared an innovative message crafting approach that seeks to communicate varying levels of meanings to the target market through a single-minded idea. Instead of tailoring the brand message to every specific market segment, Lopez-Vito proposed that it is more effective to come up with one that appeals differently to everyone.

TBWA-Santiago, Mangada, Puno managing partner Jimmy Santiago, meanwhile, focused on the need for a disruptive strategy in ensuring that a brand will stand out in an overcrowded market. If properly executed, disruption, he said, could propel a brand to top of mind in a very short time than it would take to achieve the same using a more conventional approach.

Finally, LOWE Worldwide VP and executive creative director Raul Castro enthralled the participants when he shared how a brand can make that great creative leap to a winning marketing communications campaign. Castro stressed that it is actually harder for an advertisement to compete with real life, which is inherently more interesting. Creativity fuels the breakthrough, he said, but it must be the kind of creativity that is not just clever, radical and relevant but more importantly, one that is clear, simple and distinctly honest.

The Pana MBA: Marketing and Brand Advancement was made possible through the participation of its co-presenter the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

The major sponsors include ABS-CBN, Summit

Singkaban at SM City Marilao

SM CITY Marilao highlights Bulacan's rich artistic cultural heritage by celebrating the Singkaban Fiesta-Linggo ng Bulacan 2005 at the mall from Sep. 1 to 23.

Exhibits, cultural performances, street parties, and fireworks will be showcased during the festivities, which coincide with the commemoration of the 107th anniversary of the Malolos Congress, which took place in Barasoain Church. The historic congress in 1898 led the way for an independent cultural democracy of the Republic led by the great hero Emilio Aguinaldo.

The celebration of the Linggo ng Bulacan began 14 years ago with the Singkaban Festival as its centerpiece. Singkaban is an acronym for Sining at Kalingan ng Bulacan, as well as the local term for a bamboo art décor used in Philippine fiestas.

This year's theme, "Sa Tatak Bulacan, Bida si Juan", is carried out in SM City Marilao's activities, which will feature various arts and crafts, dance, theater and other performances.

No less than Bulacan Governor Josie de la Cruz, together with local officials from the province's two cities and 22 towns, was the guest of honor during the opening of the Singkaban festivities Sep. 1 at SM City Marilao.

Homegrown exhibits-the "Kakanin Festival", "Disenyo Bulakenyo-A Display of Fashion", and the Bulacan Travel Mart-also opened on the same day and runs until Sep. 15.

The province's top designers took center stage in the "Disenyo Bulakenyo Fashion Show" on Sep. 4 at 3 p.m.; while its top artists converge for the "Lakan Sining Bulacan Painting Showcase" and the Hugis Sining Exhibit, both from Sep. 8 to 15.

The most spectacular fireworks display from Bulacan's best known pyrotechnics will dazzle during the "Pasiklaban Streetparties". This will feature top bands South Border on Sep. 9 and Hale on Sep. 16 at the mall's parking area, as well as a performance by Orange and Lemons on Sep. 18 at the Entertainment Plaza.

Pet lovers will have a grand time with the Bulacan K-9 Club's Seminar Workshop and Search for the Ideal Pet on Sep. 10, and an All-Breed Championship Dog Show on Sep. 11. A workshop of flower arrangements, "Sa Bulaklak: Bida Na, May Kita Pa si Juan", will likewise be held on Sep. 15.

The culinary expertise of Bulakenos will be featured in the "Food for the Heroes" showcase at the SM Food Court from Sep. 11 to 15. Mila Santiago-Enriquez, writer of the award-winning cookbook "Kasaysayan ng Kaluto ng Bayan", will spearhead the project, which will feature some of the favorite recipes of the country's heroes like Marcelo and Gregorio del Pilar.

The mall will also honor the province's working heroes as it celebrates "Araw ng Tsuper on Sep. 13; as well as its youth in "Araw ng mga Bata" on Sep. 14.

Highlighting the festivities will be folk dance performances on Sep. 17 and a cheerdance exhibition performed by students from all over the province.

THE LEGEND VILLAS SPONSORS TOSP 2005

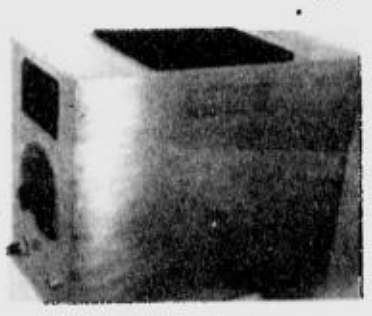
The Legend Villas recently became the official residence for the 2005 Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines (TOSP) conducted by RFM Foundation. TOSP honors the best students of the country who excel academically while actively leading community and socio-civic service organizations. Thirty finalists enjoyed the accommodations of the 125-room hotel. Located along Pioneer Street in Mandaluyong City, The Legend Villas also hosted the event's welcome and alumni nights. The hotel is part of Legend Hotels International Corp, a 100-percent Filipino-owned hotel chain. Shaking hands during the contract signing are (2nd from left) RFM Foundation president Marie C. Young and The Legend Villas GM Ginger K. Villavicencio. Looking on are TOSP national program coordinator Raffy Ortega (left) and Anvil Publishing Inc marketing manager Gwen Jessica Galvez.

ALLIED BANK OFFICERS TO GET ATENEO MBA

Thirty students will form the first batch of Allied Bank officers who will take on the Ateneo-Regis MBA Executive Degree Program at the Ateneo Graduate School of Business (AGSB). Created in partnership between Ateneo de Manila University and Regis University, the Ateneo-Regis MBA Program is an accelerated and intensive course specially designed to equip executives and business leaders with the theories, skills and values needed for today's business environment. Shown are Allied Bank president Reynaldo A. Maclang and AGSB dean and Ateneo Professional Schools (APS) vice president Dr. Alfredo RA Bengzon shaking hands as, from left, Allied Bank first vice president-human resources division Cora D. Corpus, APS registrar Dr. Cesar A. Mansibang, and AGSB associate dean Alberto L. Buenviaje look on.

ProductFiles

Odor remover, chlorine-free pools



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P9500-10T/m² 0918-9235216

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Ayala Alabang 5BR 5TB
w/s-pool 0926-7102225

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maids1-2grgeP3.965M&up8903461

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MARIKINA

Bnew 4br 3tb jacuzi 3M 9487112

Bnew4br3tb CG 9425411 / 12

QUEZON CITY

2sty 4BRs 3TB mds rm 3 car grge Blue Ridge T - 8236047•8114071

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LOT

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QUEZON CITY

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Ricky 0918-3236095

Cubao P1.5M 10%DP 9126976

Prc/ 6, QC : LA-62m² FA-145m² 3BR 3T&B 2CG New P4M 711-9051 DBO

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LOT

QUEZON CITY

★KATIPUNAN Ext Resi lot nr UP Ateneo 204 to 408m² P8,500/m² 0918-9235216★

NMla 8th St. 667m² P20T/m² 721-3127, 0917-3825198 TE

SAN JUAN

Nr. Wilson St. 425m² 13M bes. Manhann Rest. 0917-8583378

CAVITE

LAND SUITABLE FOR SUBD LOC: SILANG CAVITE W/ACCESS FR. AGUINALDO H-WAY, 8KM. FR RONINSONS & SM DASMARINAS RIPE FOR PROJECT DEV'T APPROXIMATELY 70HAS TYRINE CHUA - 2421309

OFFICE SPACE

Manda. 90-200sqm(RENT/SALE) 73-300sqm (Comm'l) 09192189917

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

LAGUNA

BelAir U/D 3BR SF w/Fence 10T/mo 7159502, 0915-8976883

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

2BR 2TB SAV MKT • 8992148

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation & Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING & REGULATORY BOARD

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 2005-027

SUBJECT : PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE UNITS FOR PROVINCIAL PUB SERVICE:

In line with the objective of the government to modernize public land transport and in the interest of public service, all units proposed as substitutes for authorized Provincial Public Utility Bus (PUB) Service, Air-Conditioned and Regular, must be at least three (3) years of newer model than the units being substituted, upon the filing of Application/Petitions Involving Dropping and Substitution of Units.

This Memorandum Circular supersedes any and all issuance inconsistent herewith, and takes effect immediately following the filing of three (3) copies hereof with the UP Law Center, pursuant to Presidential Memorandum Circular No. 11, dated 09 October 1992.

SO ORDERED.
Quezon City Philippines

MARIA ELENA H. BAUTISTA
Chairperson

GERARDO A. PINILI
Board Member

MA. ELLEN DIRIGE-CABATU
Board Member

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation & Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING & REGULATORY BOARD

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 2005-028

SUBJECT : MODIFYING/AMENDING MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR 2005-023 RELATIVE TO THE OPENING OF AUV/VAN EXPRESS SERVICES AS NEW PUBLIC LAND TRANSPORT CLASSIFICATION AND PROMULGATING ITS IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS

The following amendments and modifications of Memorandum Circular 2005-023 are hereby rendered to ensure increased stakeholder participation under the AUV/VAN Conversion Program:

1. AUVs with year models from 1994 to 1997 shall be considered under the AUV/Van Conversion Program, however the expiry date of the franchises shall coincide with the age maturity of the unit(s) which is thirteen (13) years reckoned from the date of manufacture.
2. Qualified AUVs with liftback rear doors shall be allowed under the AUV/Van Express Conversion Program provided passengers are unloaded (dropped-off) inside the designated terminals only. Qualified AUVs with side-swing rear doors shall be allowed to unload passengers within the two (2)-kilometer 180 degrees radius before the designated route ends.
3. Subsisting intra-regional Metered-Taxi CPCs shall be considered under the AUV/Van Conversion Program, for intra-regional operations only.

Other rules and regulations that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Memorandum Circular are hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect immediately.

SO ORDERED.
Quezon City, Philippines
02 September 2005

MARIA ELENA H. BAUTISTA
Chairperson

GERARDO A. PINILI
Board Member

MA. ELLEN DIRIGE-CABATU
Board Member

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation & Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING & REGULATORY BOARD

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 2005-029

SUBJECT : VOLUNTARY AMNESTY PROGRAM FOR EXTENSION OF ROUTE OF PUBLIC UTILITY BUS SERVICE

The Board issued Memorandum Circular 2005-015 allowing the voluntary conversion of Tourist Service Bus units to Regular Air-conditioned Public Utility Bus (PUB) Service on 12 May 2005 and Memorandum Circular 2005-025 allowing the voluntary conversion Shuttle Bus Service to Regular Air-conditioned PUB Service on 03 August 2005. The issuance of the said Circular emanated from the study conducted by the DOTC-LTFRB Technical Working Group that a number of tourist and shuttle buses were deployed and operated to service regular PUB Air-conditioned Service routes.

On several instances, letters have been received by the Board from provincial bus operators whose bus units are not authorized to enter Metropolitan cities requesting this Board to conduct a route survey so as as they be allowed to extend their route up to the Metropolitan cities.

Corollary thereto, a route survey was conducted by the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC). The route survey showed that a great number of bus units operated by the operators mentioned in the preceding paragraph are entering Metropolitan cities; thus, they are operating out-of-line, which is in violation of the terms and conditions of their Issued Certificates of Public Convenience (CPC).

In the interest of providing service to the riding public and legitimizing the operations of the above provincial bus operators with proper Route Measured Capacity (RMC), and pursuant to Department Order No. 2005-010 setting forth the Policy Guidelines on the Exercise of Authority and Functions by this Board and empowering it to issue Memorandum Circulars governing the powers and functions provided for in Section 5 of EO 202, the Board hereby issues the Voluntary Amnesty Program for Extension of Route of Public Utility Bus Service, subject to the following terms and conditions hereinafter provided:

1. Only CPC holders with provincial bus operations are qualified to avail of the Voluntary Amnesty Program.
2. RMC allocation shall only be issued and approved by the Office of the Chairperson forwarded to the regional Directors. The Regional Directors shall, in turn, accept the application and allocate the corresponding RMC including all the requirements prescribed by the Board to the applicants.
3. The qualified operators are given until 15 November 2005 from effectivity of this Circular to file their application for the Voluntary Amnesty Program for Extension of Route of PUB Service.
4. After the said deadline, the Technical Evaluation Division and the Regional Directors shall rank all the applicants in the allocation of the RMC.
5. The qualified PUB Service operators shall only be allowed to apply for extension of routes to their destination, and not their origin, up to the Metropolitan cities under their existing and valid PUB franchise, subject to availability of RMC allocation.

The following shall be the minimum requirements:

a. PUB units must not be more than ten (10) years old from the date of manufacture;
b. Terminal must be available in the proposed destination. For PUBs extending to Metro Manila, the terminals shall be relocated to the North and South Inter-Modal Terminals, upon their completion;
c. Garage for maintenance services must be available in the proposed destination, subject to inspection by the Technical Evaluation Division;
d. Applicant extending to Metro Manila must be a holder of a PUB CPC with at least five (5) units. Applicant extending to other Metropolitan cities must be a holder of a PUB CPC with at least three (3) units;

6. Criteria for selection shall be:
   a. Financial Capacity – 30%
   b. Age of Unit – 30%
   c. Garage – 20%
   d. Terminal – 10%; and
   e. Quality of Service – 10%
7. Metropolitan cities refer to the following:
   a. Metro Manila;
   b. Metro Baguio;
   c. Metro Cebu;
   d. Metro Iloilo;
   e. Metro Davao; and
   f. Metro Cagayan de Oro.
8. An Amnesty Fee for Extension or Route in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (PhP 100,000.00) per unit shall be excluding the regular fees and charges of the Board.
9. After proper evaluation and allocation of RMC, fifty percent (50%) of the Amnesty Fee, depending on the number of units applied for, shall be paid to the Regional Offices. The remaining 50% shall be paid to the Board before the release of the Decision granting the said Application.
10. In case of any Opposition filed to the Application, the Board shall adopt a summary proceeding by directing the parties concerned to file their respective Position Paper within a non-extendible period of ten (10) days from the date of hearing of the said Application. Thereafter, the case shall be submitted for resolution.
11. No Applications for Dropping and Substitution of Unit shall be allowed within one (1) year from grant thereof.
12. No Application for Sale and Transfer of the Approved Applications shall be allowed within five (5) years from the date of the grant.

This Memorandum Circular supersedes any and all issuances inconsistent herewith, and takes effect fifteen (15) days following the filing of three (3) copies hereof with the UP Law Center, pursuant to Presidential Memorandum Circular No. 11, dated 09 October 1992.

SO ORDERED.
Quezon City, Philippines. September 02, 2005.

MARIA ELENA H. BAUTISTA
Chairperson

MA. ELLEN DIRIGE-CABATU
Board Member

GERARDO A. PINILI
Board Member

(PDI – September 5, 2005)

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APARTMENT

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PARANAQUE

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BIG STUDIO REG RUNNGH2O NICE SUCAT 4500 8287250

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APARTMENT

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CUENCA LIBERTAD
2BR P7.8T 550-0254

FURNISHED STUDIO 8872865

PASIG

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BEDSPACE

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BUSINESS . DOCTOR 524-3197

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OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

APARTMENT FOR SALE/RENT

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
BRANCH 90, QUEZON CITY

IN THE MATTER OF: PETITION FOR REHABILITATION WITH PRAYER FOR SUSPENSION OF PAYMENTS

SPECIAL PROCEEDING NO. Q-05-121

GLORIMART TRADING, INC.,
Petitioner.
x-- ---------x

STAY ORDER

Before this Court is a verified petition/application for rehabilitation filed by the above-named petitioner.

Briefly, the petitioner alleges, among other things, that it is the owner of a chain of supermarkets that started its business in 1972; that its business operations eventually led to the establishment of more branches in Quezon City, Manila and Bulacan; that it is more known as a community supermarket that offers prime commodities and grocery items to people at very affordable prices; that despite the fact it has total assets of PhP 1,198,867,582.41 as against total debts and liabilities of PhP 711,468,524.00 as of June 30, 2005, it has present inability to service its debts and obligations to banks, suppliers and other creditors as they respectively fall due. The petitioner contends that on the basis of projected market conditions for the next fifteen (15) years, it has a good chance of being rehabilitated. The rehabilitation plan calls for the petitioner, considering its existing established goodwill, to enter into a joint venture agreement with people or interested partyies and for the rescheduling and restructuring with moratorium of its outstanding debts/liabilities except unpaid salaries and separation pay of retrenched employees as well as unpaid obligations to the Government. Consequently, the petitioner prays for the issuance of a Stay Order pending proceedings before this Court.

A careful examination of the petition shows that the same conforms substantially with Section 2, Rule 4 of the Interim Rules of Procedure on Corporate Rehabilitation (*see also* Supreme Court Resolution en banc in A.M. No. 00-8-10-SC). This Court therefore finds the petition to be sufficient in form and substance.

IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, this Court issues this Stay Order, in accordance with Section 6 Rule 4 of the aforecited Interim Rules, as follows:

1.) Appointing Mr. Antonio M. Aledo, a certified public accountant by profession with residence at No. 16-A Banuyo Street, Barangay Amihan, Project 3, Quezon City, as rehabilitation receiver who shall be considered as an officer of the court and who shall have the powers duties and functions as provided in Section 14, Rule 4 of the aforecited Interim Rules. The rehabilitation receiver must post a bond of PhP 1,000,000.00 before entering upon his powers, duties and functions and must take an oath, as provided under Section 15, Rule 4 of the aforecited Interim Rules. The petitioner is directed to serve immediately a copy of this Stay Order upon the rehabilitation receiver, Mr. Antonio M. Aledo who shall manifest his acceptance or non-acceptance of his appointment not later than five (5) days from his receipt hereof;

2.) Staying enforcement of all claims, whether for money or otherwise and whether such enforcement is by court action or otherwise, against the petitioner, its guarantors and sureties not solidarily liable with the petitioner;

3.) Prohibiting the petitioner from selling, encumbering, transferring or disposing in any manner any of its properties except in the ordinary course of business;

4.) Prohibiting the petitioner from making any payment of its liabilities outstanding as at the date of the filing of the petition;

5.) Prohibiting the suppliers of the petitioner from withholding supply of goods and services in the ordinary course of business for as long as the petitioner makes payments for the services and goods supplied after the issuance of this Stay Order;

6.) Directing the petitioner to pay in full all administrative expenses incurred after the issuance of this Stay Order.

The initial hearing on the petition is set on October 4, 2005 (Tuesday) at 9:00 A.M. at the session room of Branch 90 of this Court located at the Ground Floor of the Hall of Justice Building, Quezon City Hall Complex, Quezon City. All creditors and all interested parties including the Securities and Exchange Commission are directed to file with this Court and serve upon the petitioner a verified comment on or opposition to the petition, with supporting affidavits and documents, not later than ten (10) days before the date of the initial hearing as set forth above, and they are put on notice that their failure to do so will bar them from participating in the proceedings before this Court. All creditors and all interested parties are further directed to secure from this Court copies of the petition and its annexes within such time as to enable them to file their verified comment on or opposition to the petition and to prepare them for the initial hearing of the petition, and to attain this purpose, the petitioner is ordered to file with this Court initially twenty (20) additional copies of the petition and its annexes within ten (10) days from receipt hereof.

The petitioner is furthermore directed by this Court to have a copy of this Order published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, the Manila Bulletin, The Philippine Star, and one other newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines with widespread circulation in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao if it is a newspaper chosen by raffle other than the herein-named newspapers, considering the hundreds of millions of pesos involved in this case and the presence of creditors in Metro Manila and the provinces as alleged in the petition, once a week for two consecutive weeks, with the last publication effected at least three (3) weeks prior to the date of initial hearing as set forth above, at the expense of the petitioner.

The Process Server of this Branch is ordered to serve immediately copies of this Stay Order upon: 1) Mrs. Gloria G. Navarro (the president and duly authorized representative of the petitioner) at No. 20 Badjao Street, La Vista Subdivision, Quezon City; 2) Atty. Nicolas P. Lapeña, Jr., Golden Crescent Mansion, No. 90 Rosa Alvero Street, Loyola Heights, Quezon City, 3) Mr. Antonio M. Aledo, 16-A Banuyo Street, Barangay Amihan, Project 3, Quezon City; 4) the Honorable Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, EDSA, Mandaluyong City.

SO ORDERED.

Quezon City, August 22, 2005.

REYNALDO B. DAWAY, C.P.A.
Presiding Judge

(PDI – August 29 & September 5, 2005)

National Transmission Corporation
South Luzon Operations and Maintenance

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines

Construction of District 1 Office at Dasmariñas S/S

A single storey building approximately 600 sq.m. floor area is to be constructed at Dasmariñas, Cavite. The work includes development of site such as concreting of road, parking space, pathways and landscaping works.

[TRANS-05-CD10D-EG-08]

The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM, through the *Internal Cash Generation (ICG)* intends to apply the sum of ***Thirteen Million Nine Hundred Fifty Three Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Seven and 57/100 (Php13,953,967.57)*** being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the ***Construction of District 1 Office at Dasmariñas S/S.*** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** now invites potential Bidders to submit Letter of Intent (LOI) and apply for eligibility for the ***Construction of District 1 Office at Dasmariñas S/S.*** Bidders should possess a valid ***PCAB license*** with ***License Particular of at least: "Category B, General Building"*** and ***Registration Particular of at least: "Medium A, Building and Industrial Plant"***, respectively, have completed a similar contract involving supply of all labor, materials, supervision necessary for the ***construction of all types of buildings including site development.*** The value of which should be at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the eligibility documents. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for submission of eligibility documents shall be on the same date of the opening of Eligibility documents: ***September 22, 2005, 9:00 A.M.*** at the address mentioned in the next succeeding paragraphs. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Document. Completion of the works is required by ***two hundred ten (210) calendar days.***

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No., 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR-A of RA 9184, only bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall secure the Eligibility documents from the BAC Secretariat at the address stated below, starting ***August 29 to September 16, 2005 from 8:00A.M. to 5:00P.M.*** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Php1,500.00***. They shall submit their accomplished Eligibility documents on or before ***September 22, 2005, 9:00 A.M.*** at the stated address. Eligibility Screening shall be held on ***September 22, 2005, 9:30 A.M.*** at the OAVP Conference Room B of the stated address.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** *Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from ***8:00A.M.*** to ***5:00P.M.*** on ***October 12-14, 2005.***

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of non-refundable fee ***Php 4,000.00.*** The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representatives starting ***October 12-14, 2005, 8:00A.M.–5:00P.M.***

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on ***October 21, 2005, 9:00A.M.*** at the OAVP Conference Room Transco, SLOM San Vicente Biñan, Laguna.

Deadline for submission of bids is on ***November 3, 2005, 9:00A.M.*** at the address below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the prescribed form indicated under Section 27.2 of R.A. 9184. Bid opening shall be on the same date, ***November 3, 2005, 9:30 A.M.*** at the OAVP Conference Room B of Transco SLOM. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

The *NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation – South Luzon Operations & Maintenance
Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)
San Vicente Biñan, Laguna 4024
Mr. Reynaldo B. Vergara – BAC Chairman
(02) 981-4576 to 78 local 4086; 4094; 4053
rbvergara@transco.ph
(02) 981-4576 to 78 local 4007 www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) *REYNALDO B. VERGARA*
BAC Chairman

(PDI--Sept. 5, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
City state Centre, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City
Healthline 637-9999 www.philhealth.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

RE-BIDDING FOR THE LEASE OF OFFICE SPACE FOR THE PHILHEALTH CENTRAL OFFICE
NO. 2005-005-G

The **Philippine Health Insurance Corporation** (PhilHealth), through its Bids and Awards Committee for Goods and Services (BAC-GS) wishes to re-invite duly licensed lessors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **Lease of Office Space for the PhilHealth Central Office** with the following specifications:

Location
The location of the building and/or office space for the PhilHealth Central Office shall be along Shaw Boulevard, and within the Five Hundred (500) meter radius from the Rizal Capitol, so as not to cause inconvenience to the PhilHealth clientele who are already familiar with the present location of its Office.

The location must also be within a Hundred (100) Meter radius from commercial banks and other government agencies.

The location must not be prone to flooding.

Space Requirement
The total rentable space requirement shall be from 10,600 sq.m. to 11,000 sq.m. including a space at the ground floor of around 320 sq.m to 350 sq.m. intended for the PhilHealth Members Assistance Center (PMAC). The office spaces must have a height from floor to ceiling of at least 2.4 meters.

The term of contract for the lease of office space shall be for a period of two (2) years, subject to renewal.

The approved budget for this Lease contract is **Php 66,612,000.00** coming from C.O.B. 2005. CY 2004-2005 is the relevant period for pertinent contracts to be submitted in this bidding.

Bid documents can be obtained, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Php 10,000.00** starting **August 29 to September 9, 2005** (Weekdays), 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Office of the Secretariat for the Bids and Awards Committees (OSBAC), Room 1107, 11/F PhilHealth Central Office, Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Brgy. Oranbo, Pasig City.

A **Pre-Bid Conference** will be held on **September 12, 2005 at 1:30 p.m.** at Room 1804, OSBAC Conference Room, Room 1804, 18/F PhilHealth Central Office.

The **Submission of bids** will be on or before **10:30 noon of September 27, 2005** at the OSBAC Conference Room. The **Opening of Bids** will follow immediately at the same venue. Any bidder who comes late will not be entertained. The official time shall be based on the wall clock located at the OSBAC Conference Room. **Any bid submitted after the cut-off time will not be accepted.**

(Sgd.) **ATTY. VALENTIN C. GUANIO**
Vice President, Legal Service Group
Chairperson, BAC for Goods and Services

(PDI--Aug. 29 & Sept. 5, 2005)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

NPC-MMSD 2005-021

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-MMSD of NPC invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements

Schedule	Date/Time & Place of Bidding	Item Description	PR No./Inquiry No.	ABC
	Sept 27, 2005 10:00 a.m. Morones Room	Mechanical Parts for Cuyo DPP VMB "Perkins"	PB050927-MMVB3444 SL-CUY-05-0029 SL-CUY-05-0033	2,105,000.00
II		Piston (Groove Plating) and VMB Cynder Liner for PB 105	PB050705-MMVB2987 (PB) VR-PB5-05-0045	3,000,000.00

NOTE: A Pre-bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules:

Schedule	Date	Time	Place
Schedule I-II	Sept. 12, 2005	10.00 a.m.	Sinulog Function Room

Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Materials Management Services Division, Materials Management Dept., of NPC, Diliman, Quezon City with Tel. No. 9245357/9245477 upon payment of non-refundable fee of PHP2,000.00 for Schedules I & II starting on August 29, 2005, from 8:30 to 11.30 a.m. only. No bid documents will be issued 3 days before the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the assigned Bidding Room, MMSD, MMD, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders. Certificate of Registration issued by PSD/MMSD will be honored provided that the Certification is still valid.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of Republic Act. No. 9184.

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit - One Percent (1%), Bank Guarantee - One and a half percent (1.5%), Surety Bond - Two and a half percent (2.5%), penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action

(Sgd.) LORENZO S. MARCELO
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
MMSD-NPC

(PDI - Aug. 29 & Sept. 5, 2005)

WANTED

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Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the projects as stated below:

ITB No.	Item / Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
2005-258	50,000 pcs. LANDBANK T-Shirt	P 3,750,000.00	LBP Funds
2005-264	3-Year Contract for Security Guard Services	364,076,751.06	LBP Funds

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Bidding for the above requirements are scheduled on September 28, 2005 at 1:00 PM and pertinent Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Division of the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, **upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 and P37,000.00 for ITB Nos. 2005-258 and 2005-264, respectively.**

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on **September 13, 2005** (ITB No. 2005-258) and **September 15, 2005** (ITB No. 2005-264) at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to **Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract** shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure or waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Bank.

COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS

(PDI--Sept. 5 & 12, 2005)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that estate of the late SPS. ANGELES and PRESENTACION LACSAMANA has been extrajudicially settled by thier heirs as Per Doc #155 Page #20,Book XXII Series of 2005 of Notary Public Rose Mary M. Austria (PDI- Aug. 22, 29 & Sept 5,2005)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Elpidio S. Sison was extrajudicially settled among his heirs w/waiver of rights as per Doc.#5731, Service#21997, Of#/ 0970, of Consul General Mario L de Leon, Jr. of the Phil. Embassy, London, UK, Doc. #2208, Page# 342, Book #IV, Series of 2005 of Notary Public Gerardo Willedo Alberto of Cavite City (PDI-Aug. 29, Sept. 5 & 12, 2005)

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(National Water Resources Board)
8th Floor, NIA Building, Epifanio delos Santos Avenue, Quezon City
Tel No. 920-27-24 / 925-23-65 / 920-27-93 Fax 920-26-41

ANM ENTERPRISES, INC.
Applicant
x---- ----------x

Case No. 05-1027

NOTICE OF HEARING

Applicant, authorized operator of the waterworks system within Dominic Savio Compound, Better Living Subdivision, Parañaque City, requests for the renewal of its Certificate of Public Convenience

This application will be heard by the Board on **September 26, 2005** at 9:30 in the morning at the **NWRB-WUD Conference Room, 8th Floor, NIA Building, EDSA Quezon City** at which time Applicant shall present its evidence.

At least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled hearing, Applicant shall publish this notice once in one (1) daily newspaper of general circulation in Metro Manila and serve by personal delivery or registered mail copy of the (i) application and its attachements, and (ii) this notice to all affected parties appearing on page 2 hereof.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above date, furnishing a copy of the same to the Applicant.

Failure on the part of any person affected to file his opposition on time and to appear at the hearing will be construed, as a waiver of his right to be heard and the Board will proceed to hear and decide the application based on the evidences submitted.

Failure by the Applicant to appear at the hearing shall amount to lack of interest on its part and the instant application shall be dismissed accordingly.

Witness the Honorable Chairman of the nation Water Resources Board this 10th Day of August 2005

(Sgd.) RAMON B. ALIKPALA
Executive Director

(PDI Sept 5 2005)

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CONSTANCIO D. IMSON
of Baguio City

Peacefully joined our Lord on September 4, 2005

His wife **TRINIDAD**, children **Dr. MARIO & ELINOR**, Labor Undresecretary **MANUEL & PINKIE, Engr. CONSTANCIO, JR.** & **GRACE, MICHAEL** & **CHATO HOGAN** (USA) grandchildren **RIA** & **INA, ABBI** & **GELLA, KT, APRIL** & **JENJEN, KC, KEVIN** & **KENNY** & great grandchildren **AGA** & **MATMAT**; brothers & sisters, brothers-in-law & sisters-in-law, nephews & nieces & other relatives request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at
La Paz Funeral Homes at Naguilian Road, Baguio City.

Interment will be in Baguio City.
Date to be announced later.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
— 2 Corinthians 5:8

GLORIA CACHO ESPINUEVA

Peacefully joined our Lord on September 3, 2005 age of 83.

She will be missed by her husband **EUGENIO**; children: **MAISIE** & **BERT**, **EUGENE** & **KOYKOY**, **BABY** & **BOY**, **BUTCH** & **NELLY**, grandchildren: **NYREE** & **REY**; **HB**; **GISELLE**, **JAYMIELYN**, **GEEPEE**; **NEIL**, **AIMEE**, great grandchildren; **ROBBIE** and **KYLE**; her sisters; other relatives and friends. They request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the
Arlington Memorial Chapel, 12G Araneta Ave. Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, September 6, 2005
at the Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City,
after the 8:00 am Mass.

Our Beloved Daddy

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Petronilo Lampitoc Ruiz

of San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte and Dapitan and Dipolog Cities, Zamboanga del Norte

peacefully joined his Creator and our **Mommy Asuncion "Choleng" Ochotorena Ruiz** and our sister **Ma. Cynthia** on 28 August at the age of 98.

His children, **Jesus Chonilo** and **Filipina**, **James Cyril** and **Carol**, **Chandler**, **Joseph Cedric**, **Ma. Cyrene** and **David**, and **Clifford** and **Marites** and his in-laws, nephews, nieces, grandchildren, great grandchildren and relatives request for your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at
the Ochotorena ancestral home, Potol, Dapitan City.

Interment will be at 3:00 p.m. of 07 September 2005

at the Dapitan City Memorial Park after the 2:00 p.m.
Requiem Mass at the Saint James Cathedral, Dapitan City.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
— John 3:16

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that NSK Ltd. is the registered owner of the internationally well-known trademark "NSK" and logo used on high quality and precision ball bearings, roller bearings, linear bearings, pillow blocks, ball screws, textile machine parts, needle roller bearings, water pump bearings, clutch release bearings, and other goods related to this class, and their corresponding patents, that are protected by intellectual property laws. The public is hereby warned that the "NSK" trademark and logo are being used on fake and low quality products that are distributed and sold in the market as genuine NSK Ltd. products. In case of doubt on the genuineness of any of these products, or any suspected infringement or unlawful importation, distribution, and sale thereof, please contact NSK Ltd. through:

ARREZA & ASSOCIATES
Counsel for NSK Ltd.
Unit O, 10/F Burgundy Corporate Tower
252 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave., Makati City
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The use of the "NSK" trademark and logo in any manner whatsoever without the prior written authority of NSK Ltd. is a violation of The Revised Penal Code (Act No. 3815) and The Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines (R.A. No. 8293) and it shall be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

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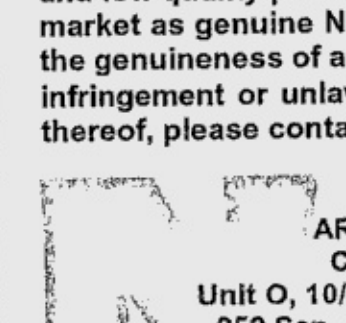

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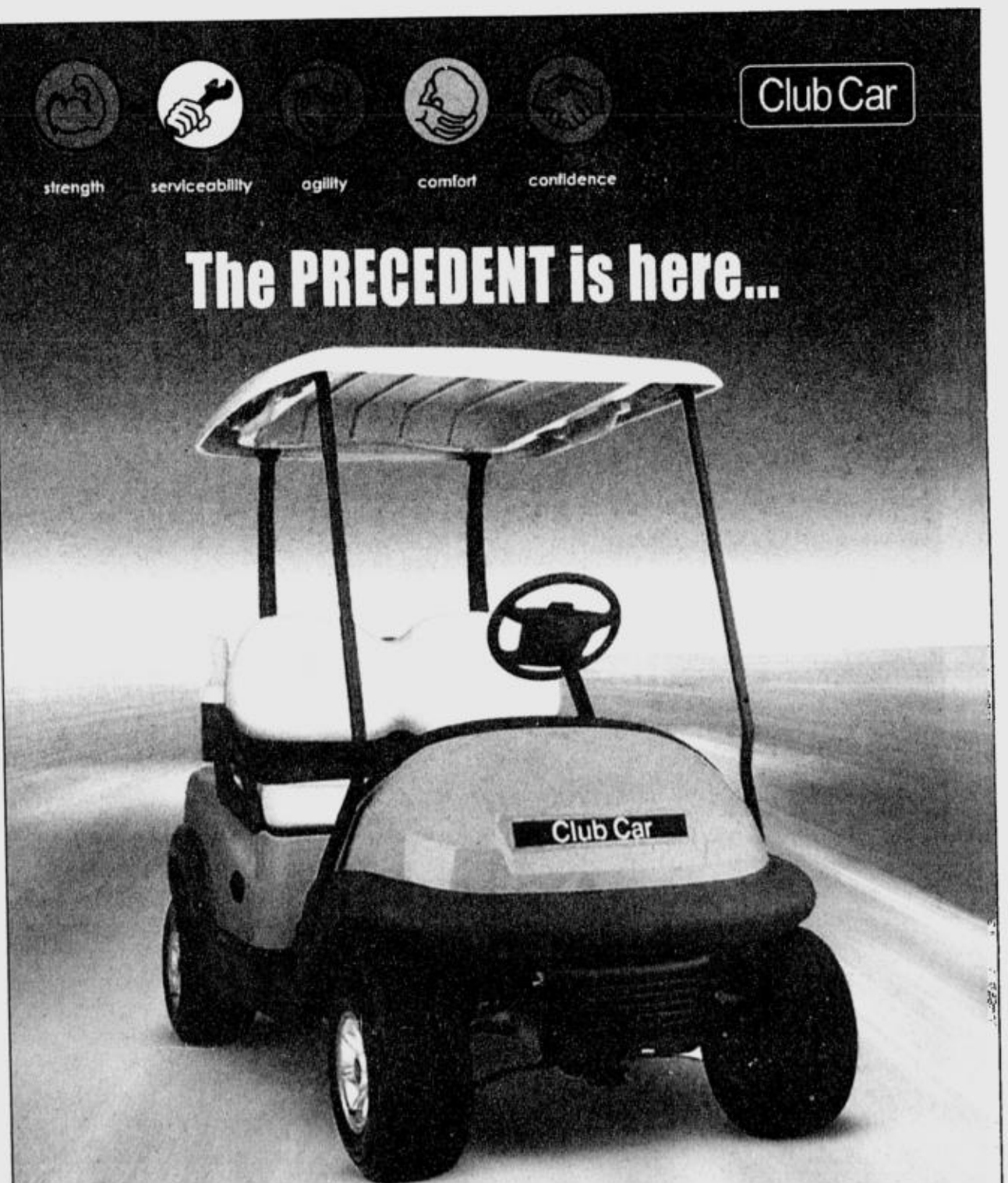

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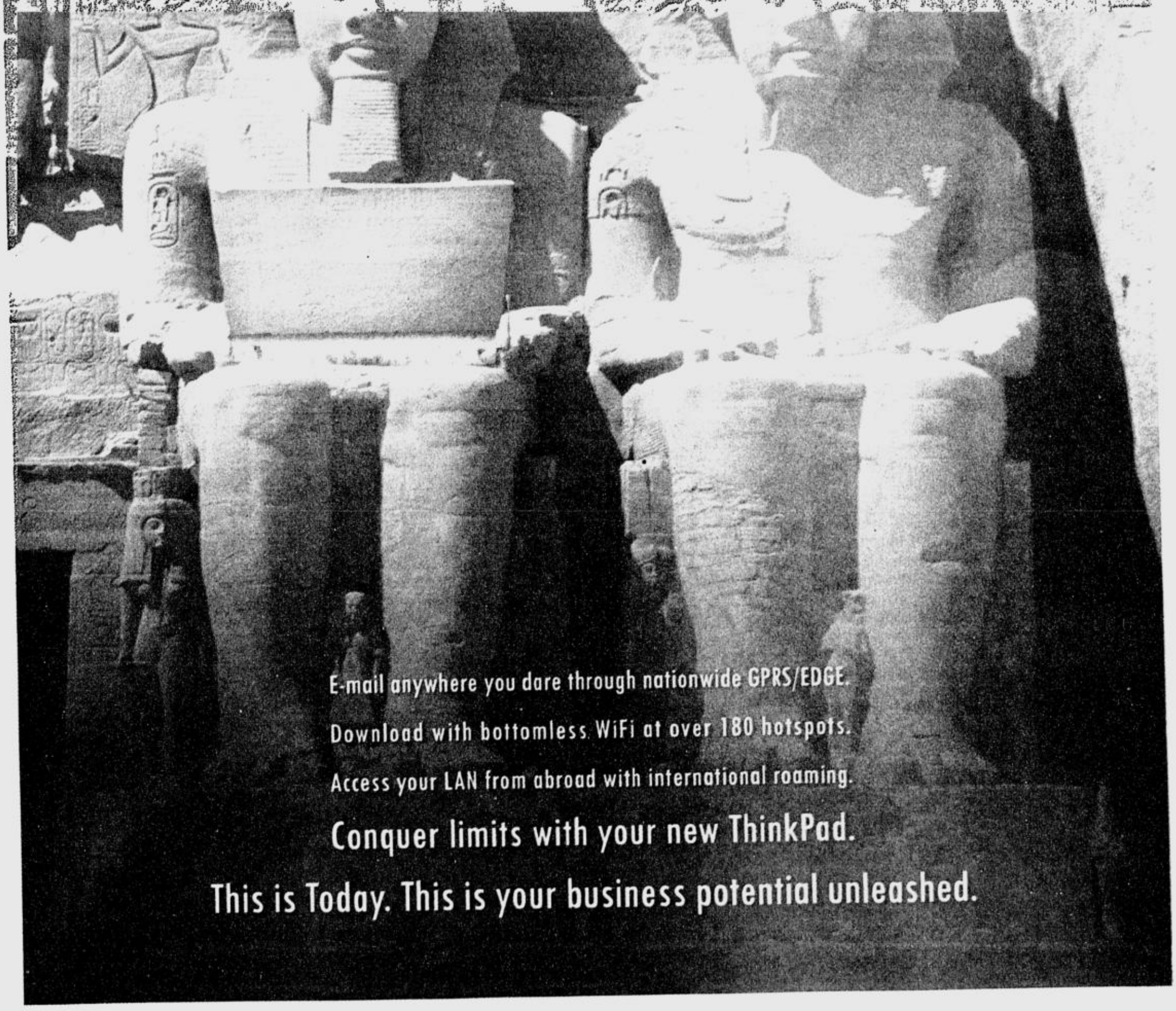

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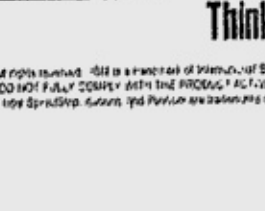

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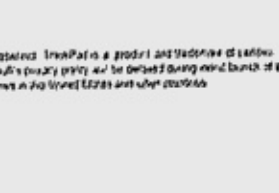

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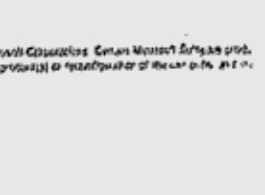

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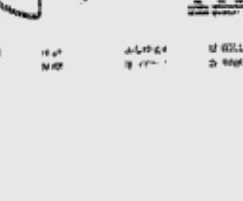

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BUSINESS Monday

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Nestlé continues P10-B investment plan

THE ECONOMIC growth may not be as robust as expected and investment figures continue to slide, but Nestlé Philippines stands firm on its decision to continue putting money in the country.

Since 2002, NPI has been investing an average of P2 billion a year. This is a five-year commitment that will end next year, by which time Nestlé would have put in P10 billion.

"We will not commit if we do not believe," says NPI technical director John Samuel Jessup.

Jessup, a 35-year veteran of Nestlé, says the investments in the country are intended to:

- Increase capacity to meet local and regional demand.
- Improve productivity to remain competitive and cost efficient.
- Improve quality standards.
- Ensure environmental compliance.
- Improve energy efficiency and self-sufficiency as appropriate.
- Ensure facilities meet the high standards for safety and occupational health.
- Improve produce distribution and availability for the customer.

As much as 75 percent of the budget will be placed in production facilities, with the balance invested in sales, distribution, administration and information systems.

Even before the government announced energy saving measures, Nestlé, whose five plants have their own power source, already has an energy conservation program.

The highlight of this is the purchase of new boiler facilities which use the steam generated from spent coffee grounds as fuel for the production process.

Nestlé is one of a handful of multinational firms that have

NESTLE/ B2-2

NESTLÉ REORGANIZATION

Dangers of success

NANDKISHORE

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

NANDU Nandkishore, the new CEO of Nestlé Phils. Inc., would have preferred to take on his post in one of Nestlé's biggest markets under different circumstances.

But he nevertheless takes on the challenges faced by changing structures and systems in one of the world's largest food firms, and meets them in the best way possible given the local culture.

Nandu takes over the Philippine post after his predecessor, Salvador Pigem, passed away shortly after he was diagnosed with cancer. Nandu considers Pigem his mentor during his stint in Nestlé Indonesia. By some twist of fate, Nandu started his stint in the company on the same day Pigem died.

Nandu, only in his 40s, talks about two very important transformations going on in Swiss-based Nestlé S.A. which translates into a major reorganization for the Philippine operations.

"One is global—a strategic transformation from a food and beverage company to a food, beverage, healthy, nutrition and wellness company. The other is an organizational transformation where we move to network based organization," he states.

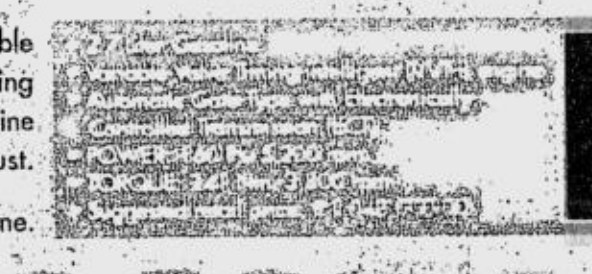
The changes are contained in the Blue Print for the Future, drawn up by Nestlé S.A. chair and CEO Peter Brabeck who wants a "fast, flexible and focused" organization.

In the Philippines, this translates to the creation of eight business units, to be headed by a business executive manager. All eight report to the CEO.

Pigem had started planning for these changes and Nandu continues the vision laid down by his predecessor.

"These units will be self-sufficient in terms of resources, technology, finance and managing the supply chain," describes Nandu. "The business unit will be empow-

DANGERS/ B2-2



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Fixing RP Inc.—The CEO way

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Augusto L. de Leon

IF WE were running the Philippines as a corporation, how could we change the course of the country? While in managing in the public sector, political factors have more weight, there are still basic similarities with the private sector that, if applied, could prove to be effective.

Focus on the critical purpose

A corporate CEO remains faithful to his main responsibility—to increase shareholder value. In the public sector, the focus should be on the majority of its citizens.

Where a CEO would focus on the customers, in the public sector, the customers are the citizens.

Given this assumption, the most absolute, critical issue that has to be addressed is the poverty of the majority of the people in the country.

In the 1950s, some of our well-meaning intellectual leaders like Sen. Raul Manglapus identified the fiesta culture as the culprit that's causing poverty in the rural areas.

Over time, in my observations of the economy of the agricultural areas, I find that this is not true. In fact, rather than aggravating poverty, fiestas stimulate the local economy for people in the community.

People create wealth by raising chickens and hogs, and plant more so that they have food for the fiesta. Most of the expenditures are circulated in the community.

The true cultural practice that aggravates poverty in poor communities is "jueteng," or more generally, gambling. The culture of gambling siphons away purchasing power from the poor communities. Economic theories say that development is stimulated when money flows to the people in the economy of a poor area.

Jueteng does the exact opposite—it saps away the limited money available, and since most of the bets accumulate to the benefit and for the protection of the gambling lords and their patrons, the money does not stay in the local community. It is funneled away to the cities and abroad.

Suggested prescription

One of the assets of our society is that we have religious institutions. Instead of religious leaders asserting themselves in politics, and politicians vying for religious support, perhaps our political and religious leaders can find some common ground to work in.

This can be in the form of undertaking a well-programmed and orchestrated education and information campaign to explain how jueteng makes the poor poorer. For it to be effective, however, people cannot be swayed by the legal and moral arguments which are the strong suits of politicians and the religious.

Rather, if the poor people can be made to see the bigger picture as it relates to them—that when billions of pesos get siphoned from the poor communities through the gambling lords and their protectors, their communities become poorer by that much.

If the poor see that when X amounts of money gets out of their community, it reduces the money circulating in their local economy, limits their purchasing power and causes them personal economic hardship, perhaps they themselves might be able to change the cultural practice of the past century.

The management task is to be able to quantify the amount of money that drains out of the community on a monthly basis and its impact on the local economy. The government can provide per-barangay economic information to religious institutions, which can now be more effective cultural change agents at the grassroots level.

The financial statement

The success of a CEO in a corporate setting is measured against the bottom line in the financial statement at the end of the year. In the public sector, there is often a claim that there is no financial statement. But in reality, there is.

In fact, it is easier to measure the bottom line of the public sector than the private sector.

Put simply, if inflation is higher than growth, then we have a negative performance because the people have become poorer by the difference between inflation rate and growth rate.

So, if inflation is 8 percent and our GNP is 5 percent, then we are poorer by 3 percent. This weak financial performance is also measured by a deteriorating exchange rate.

Western-oriented economists recommend inflationary policies to stimulate growth. It works only if inflationary expenditures result in a subsequent period of growth exceeding inflation.

But in the case of inflation exceeding GNP decade after decade, without resulting positive growth in excess of inflation, then we obviously do not have the right policy direction. The policy only creates more poor people.

In the Philippines and economies with a dual economy, where a segment of the population is linked to the formal economy and more are surviving on the informal economy, the poor are not even able to participate in the recorded GNP growth. Worse, they carry the burden of inflation, since the increasing cost of living outstrips their ability to increase their income.

Democratic institutions thrive only where there is a middle class majority. It should therefore be the objective of any democratic government to adopt policies that will increase the middle class.

For example, those who have work and participate in wealth creation might be able to send their children to private schools perceived to provide better quality education, but high inflation forces them to send their children to the lower-cost public educational system, aggravating the limited resources of public education.

Poor education inhibits the growth of the middle class and therefore reduces the overall wealth creation capacity of the nation.

Is the GNP of 5 percent real?

As financial analysts must look critically at the quality of the financial reports on profitability, when applied to the public sector, we will find a need to reduce what is claimed to be GNP growth.

Overseas Filipino workers provide part of the GNP, which means a good $10 billion of what is claimed as GNP growth, is actually wealth created in the economies of other nations by our people.

Another part of the claimed GNP are government service expenditures that expands by means of borrowing.

If we critically adjust the GNP, we would see the deficit between the reported inflation and the GNP would be greater, giving a clearer picture of the bottom-line measurement of our country's performance and its aggravated impact on poverty.

Goshen, the French president of Nissan, did not turn around the company by increasing the prices of cars. Instead, he cut down the overhead of the company, becoming more efficient and providing quality products.

Historically, this is what every bankrupt company that has managed to turn itself around has done to get back on their feet.

While taxation improves the equilibrium of the economy, excessive and misplaced government expenditure is a crucial part of the solution.

An article in the July 30, 2005 issue of the Economist talks about Brazil having taken the taxation route to balance their budget. The result is having 55,000 articles and 63 separate levies in the tax code that Brazil's citizens are simply unable to afford to pay.

To quote, "The government has become too big and too powerful for its own good... the concentration of power creates a sensation of impunity... people at the top act as if they will never be punished."

Are we entering the threshold of this situation?

Graft and corruption

A recent front-page article in Business World published a study that graft and corruption increases the cost of doing business in the Philippines by 15 percent.

The study does not include the cost of government expenditures for projects that do not make a real contribution towards making it possible for the economy to grow. It does not include the extra cost involved when Philippine exporters have to get 35 signatures to be able to export their goods.

It does not include the time lost in doing legitimate business with government. But more than that, graft and corruption increase the inflationary gap that causes more people to be poor.

'Cabo' mentality

When I made my undergraduate thesis on labor, I learned that the workers in the pier of Manila were managed in this way: Managers controlled the "cabo," or foreman, and the cabos controlled the workers.

There was little concern for the laborers, and over time, the cabos became so powerful that they were controlling the managers. Applied to industrial relations, the principle I learned was: Leaders can be more effective if they keep the cabos happy—but more importantly, make sure that the rank-and-file employees are even more happy.

Historically, the government relied on land owners to deliver the votes. It could be said that the land owners were like political cabos.

It was only after the time of the late President Ramon Magsaysay that the politicians had to solicit votes directly from the people, particularly in the rural areas.

Thereafter, our politicians reverted to getting their votes by relying mostly on new political cabos, while providing entertainment to the mass of voters.

This leadership approach, however, eventually allows the political cabos to leverage the top leadership instead of the other way around.

A political leadership that emphasizes the need to keep the political cabos happy, to the detriment of the citizens, will find that during periods of crisis, the sentiment of the masses will move away from the top leadership, and the loyalties of the political cabos will very quickly shift to a new leader, leaving the top leadership at the mercy of the shifting loyalties of the political cabos.

Our leadership has to pay attention to the foot soldiers and the mass of the people because it is only their full support of the leadership that prevents coups and political turmoil.

Conclusion

Fixing RP Inc. will require public sector leadership to adopt policies and leadership principles that have proven effective in the corporate world. Leaders of countries like Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea, India and now even Vietnam are showing that it is the policies adopted by the government that will spell success or failure to reduce poverty. No Charter changes, no other programs to alleviate poverty will work while inflation rate exceeds GNP.

It can be done. China elevated 300 million people from poverty to a new standard of living in a matter of 25 years. With proper leadership, we can do the same.

(The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is principal consultant of De Leon Consulting. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)

Nestle continues ...

From page B2-1

continued to put money in the Philippines.

Asked if the political and economic goings-on in the country have affected Nestlé's decision, NPI CEO Nandu Nandkishore replies: "An investment friendly government makes investments easier. China has benefited from this. Let's not underestimate the value of an investment climate."

"We take a long-term view of the investment potentials in the Philippine domestic and export markets. We are hopeful that the business climate will improve."

Although the food industry exhibited slower growth the past year, he says Nestlé continues to enjoy growth.

Dangers of success

From page B2-1

ered and will drive the business forward."

Nandu sees himself as the one who will "help change the culture and the mindset of the people" to adopt to the changes.

"I will go around internally and talk to people. I will re-energize the people and the company to have sustained growth.

"My role is to do whatever is required to make sure the right people are in the right place and to invest in programs."

Local challenges

Nandu expects the organizational changes in Nestlé to address the challenges in the local market which includes limited growth in certain segments of society.

"Our challenge is how do we continue to be relevant and make our products available. We will focus on the existing market and the rural markets."

For the rural markets, Nandu sees that the smaller packaging would still be the best way to reach the market and ensure that the trade channels retain access.

For the higher market, or those with more purchasing power, the challenge is to always come up with new goods that would interest them.

"Each category has to develop two segments, two markets. Both are challenging but if we do it right, both would be sustainable."

Nandu warns that the "biggest danger of success is success itself."

For a conglomerate like Nestlé which controls the bulk of the market in many of its product categories, he acknowledges it is easy to be complacent.

At the same time, Nandu takes it upon himself to push for higher consumption of food items that have so much more potential in the Philippines.

Milk consumption alone, he cites, has room for growth. The per capita consumption of milk in the Philippines is only 22 liters a year, compared with 40 in Malaysia, 70 in India, and 300 in Switzerland.

"I go to the NPI teams and ask them, you're 22, are you happy with that?" he says.

There is also an informal competition among countries on which can achieve more growth during a certain period.

Nestlé produces, among others, fresh milk, Bear Brand, Carnation, a line of infant formula and ice cream.

Another product that has so much potential is coffee.

Coffee farmer story

"Coffee per capital here is not as high as it should be," Nandu says, reminding people that coffee has less caffeine than tea.

Nandu becomes passionate when you talk of coffee because he says there is more to a cup of coffee than just a beverage.

"Every cup of coffee you drink provides sustainable livelihood to a farmer somewhere in the Philippines. Every cup you take has an impact on the consumption and the flow of the economy."

NPI communications director Noy Dy-Liacco reminds that Nestlé buys directly from the farmers, no middle men or traders which means the coffee farmers get much better prices..

The Cagayan de Oro spray-dried plant of Nestlé is one the world's largest coffee sources for Nestlé.

Nestlé's coffee purchases in the Philippines provide livelihood for some 30,000 to 40,000 families in the country.

Nandu wishes that Filipinos would soon drink more iced coffee than hot coffee.

He says that in other countries, demand for cold coffee is higher compared to hot coffee, particularly in tropical countries like the Philippines.

Nescafe, made by NPI, has already adopted several campaigns over the past few years encouraging the shift to cold coffee.

Leadership land mines

From page B2-4

you. Titles and positions don't matter.

If you're good at what you do, you don't need them, and if you're not so good, they won't help. So stop thinking of yourself in terms of your position or title.

3. Love the people you lead. This is something I've said for many years: People really do not care how much you know until they know how much you care.

4. Understand that you're in the people business. You might think you're in banking, real estate, manufacturing or publishing. But, as my friend Ken Blanchard is fond of saying, no matter what you do, you're actually in the people business.

Your clients are people, your suppliers are people, and your employees are people. Make no mistake—you are in the people business.

5. Understand the "Law of Significance." This law says, "One is too small a number to achieve greatness." If you can achieve your dream by yourself, you don't have much of a dream.

Next week, I will address several more land mines and outline steps to help you steer clear of them.

In the meantime, take an inventory of your leadership based on what I've just written. Think about the land mines you've stepped on in the past, as well as those you might be dangerously close to right now.

What do you need to do to avoid them?

(For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership programs, please e-mail us at maxwell@inspire.ph or call 813-2732/03 and ask for Gina. Text MAXWELL ON to 4632 (Smart) to get daily SMS leadership insights from John Maxwell.)

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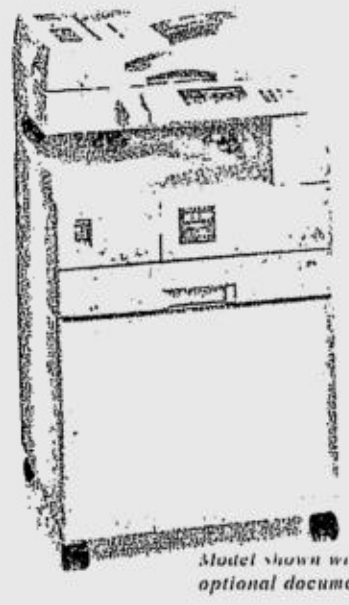

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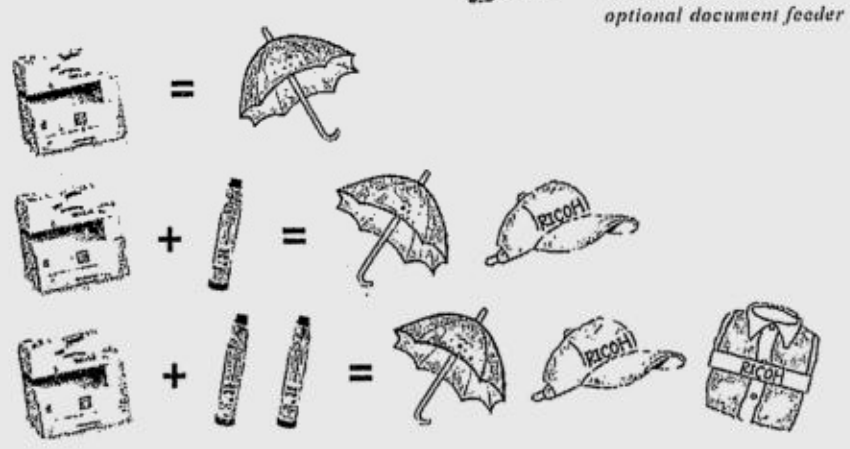

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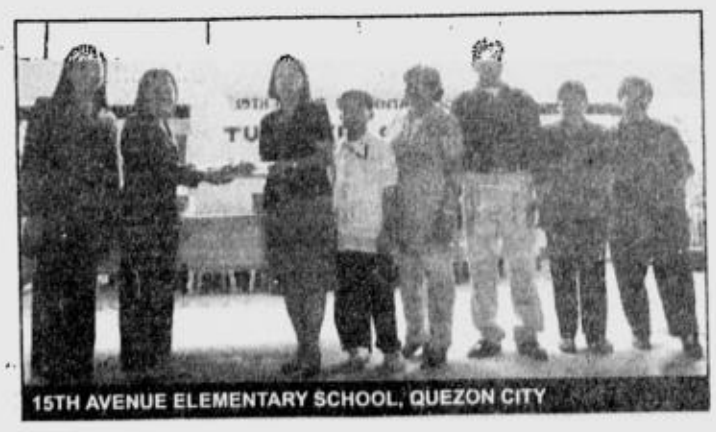
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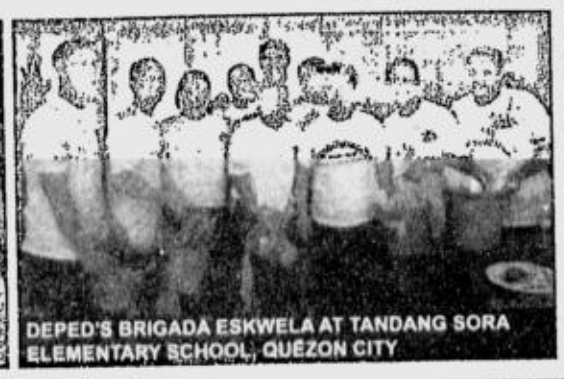
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Leadership land mines

(Part 1)

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

IT HAPPENS all the time.

Successful leaders—people with great business acumen, great teams and great vision—are moving along, growing their companies when, all of a sudden, they fall flat on their faces.

Their businesses start hemorrhaging money. Their best people start jumping ship. Their families start falling apart.

And they sit at their desks with their heads in their hands wondering, "How did this happen?"

I'll tell you how it happened. They were blown up by a problem they never saw coming.

I call these problems "leadership land mines" because unless you're consciously looking for them, they're nearly impossible to spot. They're buried in the grind of daily life, quietly waiting to injure and perhaps even destroy the next unsuspecting leader who steps on them.

Personal experience

Before I go on, I need to tell you that what I'm writing is based on personal experience. At one time or another in my career, I've stepped on land mines like the ones I'm about to describe.

In some cases, I even have the scars to prove it.

If you're moving and active, you're bound to have a painful encounter with a land mine every now and then. It's just the nature of leadership. But there are certain land mines that will absolutely wipe you out if you're not careful, and those are the ones that really deserve our attention.

A friend once told me, "If I could kick the person most responsible for most of my problems, I would not be able to sit down for a week."

From my own life and the lives of the leaders I've observed over the years, I have found that to be absolutely right.

Most leaders I watch don't need to worry about the competition beating them. Instead, they need to be concerned about doing something stupid in the race and disqualifying themselves.

What could be some other potential leadership land mines in your life or career?

For example, spending too much time basking in today's success without looking toward the future will sabotage your leadership.

So will failing to make tough calls, advancing in position but not personal growth, and betraying the trust of your people.

You may never have thought of some of these things as being that bad, but believe me, they are. And none of them are caused by other people, including your competitors. If these problems affect your life, the blame lies squarely on your shoulders.

Losing touch

So if you want to maintain your integrity as a leader, it's critical that you recognize them as leadership land mines and take steps to avoid them.

In this column, I've given you tools to do just that in several areas. But we've only just begun.

Another deadly land mine that many leaders step on is the propensity to lose touch with the people they're leading. When leaders become isolated—due to success, failure or even extreme busyness—they become ineffective.

It's the natural human response to withdraw during such times, but if you want to avoid this land mine, you can't do that. Get down off the mountain. Walk slowly through the crowd. Listen to your people and actually hear what they're saying. Sense what they're feeling. Hang out with them.

Taking these actions will definitely enable you stay in touch with your people. The following steps will also help.

1. Value people. They're the only appreciable assets that you have, so don't go around thinking that they're replaceable or not necessary. You can't do your job without other people.

2. Avoid positional thinking. Leadership has nothing to do with your position or title; it has everything to do with your influence. If you want to keep from losing touch with your people, you have to adopt the mindset that the folks around you work with you, not for

LEADERSHIP/ B2-2

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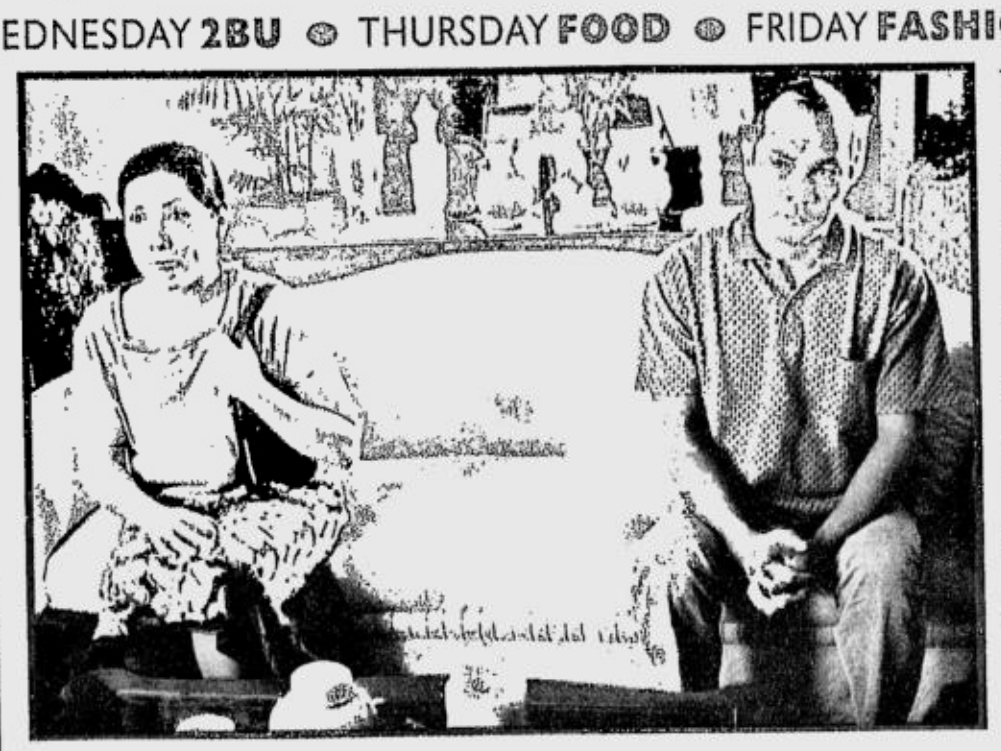

With indie cinema's flowering, theater actors are suddenly headlining movies, often triumphantly

By Gibbs Cadiz

IS it time to declare a new era in Philippine cinema?

The Urian award for Best Picture in 2004 went to Lav Diaz's 10-hour digital film "Ebolusyon ng Pamilyang Pilipino," leading the maverick filmmaker to exult in his acceptance speech: "The floodgates are open!"

Indeed. It's now September, and the mainstream studios have yet to come up with a film major enough, in terms of star wattage or box-office recall, to make it a shoo-in in next year's awards round-up.

So far, the only film of note from a big outfit has been Mark Meilly's enjoyable "La Visa Loca," an even better movie than his award-winning debut, "Crying Ladies." "La Visa Loca" was released by Unitel Pictures, the same outfit behind another big-budgeted but muddled movie, Peque Gallaga's "Pinoy Blonde."

Cholo Laurel's "Nasaan Ka Man" from Star Cinema? The less said about it, the better.

Phenomenon

The demise of mainstream Pinoy cinema has led to a related phenomenon: the progressive disappearance of the industry's most visible stars from the cineplex.

Nowadays, top-shelf names like Sharon, Maricel, Dolphy, Judy Ann, Piolo and Jericho are mostly seen on TV, their stature and salaries effectively keeping them out of the emerging indie bandwagon that thrives on meager budgets, garage setups and quick improvisations. While this has robbed the silver screen of some glitter and glamour, it has also broken up space for other less heralded but talented performers to fill in.

Thus, barring any truly impressive Metro Manila Filmfest entry this December (and with four films classified as fantasy and two as horror, why expect?), next year's citations for acting achievements should be dominated, not by mainstream stars, but by indie actors, most of them products of Philippine theater.

In fact, if there is any justice in the world, 2005 would be remembered as a banner year when local theater performers showed their acting cousins in Philippine cinema proof of what Pauline Kael said of Barbra Streisand in "Funny Girl," when producers derided her as not being good-looking enough for movies: "Nonsense. Talent IS beauty."

Force of nature

The one indisputably great performance of the year so far belongs to a theater stalwart, Irma Adlawan, who is a veritable force of nature in Dennis Marasigan's "Sa North Diversion Road," an entry to the Cinema One Digital Film Festival.

Based on Tony Perez's play of the same title, "Sa North" has Adlawan and John Arcilla playing 10 different couples sorting out issues of fidelity, conflict, the limits of love. The film's static structure, its reliance on verbal interplay rather than visual cues for character progression, would pose a challenge even to accomplished actors.

CLOCKWISE from left: Irma Adlawan in "Sa North Diversion Road"; Roselyn Perez and Jess Evardone in the Cinemalaya Best Short Film awardee "Mansyon"; Shamaine Centenera Buencamino and Mads Nicolas in "Sandalang Bahay"

Arcilla is competent, even wrenching in some scenes. But Adlawan is astounding.

What's more amazing is realizing that, on top of this devastating performance, Adlawan offers exceptional turns in two other indie movies—Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil's "Mga Pusang Gala" and Rica Arevalo's "ICU Bed #7," an entry to the first Cinemalaya Film Festival.

Three strikes in one year is an achievement not many big-name stars can equal. Nicole Kidman notched only two in 2001 (Baz Luhrmann's "Moulin Rouge" and Alejandro Amenabar's "The Others") and Entertainment Weekly had posthaste proclaimed her "Entertainer of the Year." Adlawan may not be an "entertainer," but she is truly, inarguably Best Actress material.

Zany vein

Adlawan isn't alone in her command of the digital medium. Mario Cornejo and Monster Jimenez's "Big Time," Cinemalaya's Best

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Stage-honed and ready for their close-up

From page C1

Screenplay awardee, makes use of theater actors to the fullest.

Peta's Nor Domingo is a sharp headliner as half of a pair of bumbling cons, able to find a zany vein in even the mere mention of a name (Asked for his Top 3 favorite stars, he answers, "*Si* Beyonce. *Si* Winona Ryder, *yun. Atsaka si* Toni Rose Gayda!").

Jamie Wilson, most recently the Emcee in New Voice Company's masterful production of "Cabaret," does a fearsome turn as Wilson, bratty scion of a gangster played by Michael De Mesa (solid even in a small part in "Once on This Island").

And Arnold Reyes, who closed the recent run of the Dulaang UP musical "St. Louis Loves Dem Filipinos" on a fiercely moving note, has a strong cameo.

In the much-lauded "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros," which won Cinemalaya's Special Jury Prize, the acting by the largely unknown cast is excellent. Its three theater imports register very strongly onscreen—Neil Ryan Sese (now playing Crisostomo Ibarra in Gantimpala Theater's long-running "Kanser"); Bodgie Pascua, playing against type as a ruthless police officer; and especially Soliman Cruz as the patriarch of a petty-criminal family and gentle father to his young gay son, Maximo (Nathan Lopez, a remarkable find).

Cruz's range is further showcased in Sigfreid Barros Sanchez's Cinemalaya entry "Lasponggols," a shallow, self-indulgent rant against the rotten state of local studio moviemaking. The unflappable Cruz makes the most of his part as a swishy, canny beautician in a barrio invaded by two sham filmmakers (Epi Quezon, nicely underplaying his part, and Dwight Gaston, broadly overacting).

Subtler tack

Filmmaker Joel Ruiz takes a subtler tack with theater actors in his sublime "Mansyon," winner of the Cinemalaya Best Short Film award.

Brimming with silences and pauses, formless dialogue and music (a sensibility that recalls Sofia Coppola), "Mansyon" allows NVC's Roselyn Perez, playing a maid opposite her gardener husband (Jess Evardone) in a marriage gone stale, to plumb the pain and newfound joy of her character mostly through gestural and eye acting.

The actors ditch the dense, expansive mannerisms of the stage for the compact requirements of Ruiz's camera, and the result is a 23-minute jewel.

A minimalist aesthetic also pervades Mark Gary and Denisa Reyes' Cinema One entry, "Sandalang Bahay." This gothic story about memory and forgiveness, loss and regret, finds its spine in the complex performances of its four female leads, all theater veterans: Mads Nicholas (last seen onstage in Tanghalang Pilipino's "Misa"); Shamaine-Centenera Buencamino and Gilleth Sandico, who play quarrelsome sisters, and Adriana Agcaoili (Laura in Gantimpala's "Florante at Laura"), their prickly, spiteful mother whose machinations would forever destroy a family.

Not since "Naglalayag" (with Chanda Romero, Jaclyn Jose and Nora Aunor tangling in one scene) has the screen burned with such crisp female drama.

Distilled presence

Shamaine's husband Nonie, one of Philippine theater's most expressive, agile performers, is also in "Sandalang Bahay," as well as in Doy Del Mundo's whimsical "Pepot Artista," about a boy's obsessive love for stardom and the movies in the heyday of Guy and Pip.

The theater-trained Elijah Castillo is disarming in the title role, and he is supported by, among others, Lou Veloso, Joy Soler-De Castro, Bituin Escalante and Buencamino, whose distilled, knowing presence always grounds the screen. "Pepot Artista," Cinemalaya's Best Film, has its bumpy moments, but the performances make up for them.

Lastly, there's Ron Bryant's "Baryoke," a sprawling, ambitious film that spotlights a gaggle of noted theater names: Ronnie Lazaro, Pen Medina, Angie Ferro, Roeder Camanag, Paolo O'Hara, Catherine Racsag. If not for Elizabeth Oropesa's stellar presence, "Baryoke" would have qualified as an all-out theater production.

Camanag, O'Hara and Cruz were in Loy Arcenas' bristling "Ang Romansa ni Magno Rubio" at the CCP last year, while Racsag is rocking the stage in Tanghalang Pilipino's "R'meo Luvs Dewlhiett." Ferro, Medina and Lazaro, of course, need no introduction.

These performers have toiled for years in a most demanding art form, always in austere conditions and for pittance pay before a largely indifferent audience. Now, indie cinema is unloading their talent by the bucketful on the silver screen.

No class of artists deserves those close-ups more.

E-mail the author at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph

How Tall Can Your Child Grow?

It is natural for parents to be want to know how tall their child will grow. As a rule, a child's height and growth are determined primarily by his genetic predisposition. Many other factors as well may either stimulate or hamper your child's potential to grow taller, including his diet and regular nutritional intake, the overall health, and hormonal condition. The wise parent keeps in mind that each child is unique and every individual's growth rate and potential will vary. Consult often with your pediatrician regularly and provide your children with the right diet and nutritional support to help make sure that they are growing and developing as well as they should.

Make the most of your child's growth potential

The ages from 2 to 12 years old are critical — that is when your child is going through the stages of physical and mental development. Your discerning care is vital during this crucial time of their development. These days, parents already find it hard to spare children from the pressure and intensity of schoolwork and the indulgences in nutritionally-deficient junkfood. These factors can get in the way of strengthening a child's resistance and ensuring his proper nutritional intake. It is for this reason that, for over 10 years now, pediatricians all over the country have prescribed Cherifer Syrup, which is formulated for today's Filipino children from 2 to 12 years old. Cherifer Syrup is a multivitamin-enriched food supplement that can help children make the most of their full growth potential. Containing Taurine & CGF or Chlorella Growth Factor, it is a well-balanced formula that provides necessary nutritional support to active and growing children. Taken regularly, together with a proper diet, it can help stimulate a child's growth in height and weight as well as assist in promoting mental, visual and motor development. It also helps boost the child's overall body resistance to stress, sickliness and infections.

Cherifer Syrup contains CGF or Chlorella Growth Factor. It is a natural, cell-nourishing, high-protein substance that is rich in nucleic and amino acids that have been proven to help stimulate growth as well as repair and heal tissue to an extent not previously found in other foods. While Chlorella in itself provides a wide array of vitamins, minerals and amino acids naturally, its most beneficial value is derived from its extracted ingredient called Chlorella Growth Factor (CGF). Only high-grade concentrated CGF, which can help enhance a growing child's natural potential for height, is utilized in the formulation of Cherifer Syrup. Many parents who have been giving their children Cherifer Syrup with CGF and Taurine have remarked on their kids' remarkable growth and development.

A Wholistic Formulation for Growth

Cherifer Syrup's well-balanced preparation is fortified as well with Taurine and Lysine, which works together with important vitamins to help in a child's overall health and well-being.

Taurine is vital in ensuring the proper function of the brain, heart, lungs and blood. It enhances the mental, visual and motor development of active growing kids. Together with Vitamin A, Taurine plays an important role in the function of the retina to improve vision, especially in maintaining proper hand-and-eye coordination.. It also helps in the efficient metabolism of food by ensuring proper conversion of food elements for energy and growth. It also acts as an antioxidant which helps protect the cells against diseases. Cherifer Syrup with Taurine & CGF provides sufficient supply of the B-complex vitamins to help the body absorb and utilize protein and carbohydrates better.

Cherifer Syrup also contains Lysine, which is necessary for a child's growth and bone development. It assists in calcium absorption and in maintaining the body's correct nitrogen balance. Although it enhances appetite, it actually helps maintain lean body mass. Furthermore, growing children need adequate amount of Lysine to produce antibodies and repair of tissue.

With today's generation growing up in an environment that is more stressful and more competitive than their parents grew up in, it is no wonder that parents and doctors are looking for the right nutritional supplement that will help give kids the advantage to develop their fullest potential. Tynor, the manufacturers of Cherifer Syrup, shares in that commitment. Wholly Filipino-owned, Tynor has evolved and focused on local research and development to formulate its unique and revolutionary products that will prove beneficial and relevant to the needs and lifestyles of the modern Filipino family. Its very own Cherifer Syrup stands out as one of its most successful products that have helped the company fulfill that vision.

Bottomline, there is no magic formula that can predict how tall your children will grow up to be. But while they are in their physical formative years, Cherifer Syrup hopes to give them the best possible advantages to help them achieve their full growth potential.

New Voice Company presents 'Frozen'

JENNY Jamora, Jamie Wilson and Roselyn Perez in "Frozen"

JAMIE Wilson (Aliw Best Actor nominee for "Cabaret"), Roselyn Perez, star of "Mansyon," adjudged Best Short Film in the recent Cinemalaya filmfest, and Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts-trained Jenny Jamora (Aliw Best Actress nominee for "The Blue Room") star in Bryon Lavery's "Frozen," a chilling tale of madness, grief and forgiveness.

In one scene, Ralph (Wilson) surveys his suitcase of child porn videos, lovingly reading out the absurd and disturbing titles, like a little boy obsessively inspecting his collection of toys. So we're presented with the monster, and like Nancy (Perez), the mother of one of his victims, we have to deal with the reality of him. Should he be put to death? Can he be forgiven?

Nancy's journey from paralyzing shock to grief-stricken anger and, finally, a state of stoic acceptance, is a fascinating examination of the human spirit battling to overcome almost incomprehensible pain.

Don't miss this tour-de-force play that has won awards from London to New York. Stage direction and concept by Rito P. Asilo.

"Frozen" runs on a limited two-week run at the Republic of Malate: Sept. 9, 10, 16, 17 at 8 p.m., and Sept. 10, 17 at 4 p.m. Call 8966695, 8990630, 8965497, 8919999.

'The Miracle Worker' at FEU

FAR Eastern University, through its President's Committee on Culture, will present the Gilopez Kabayao Foundation in a staging of "The Miracle Worker" by William Gibson tomorrow, 10:45 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. at the FEU Auditorium. Admission is free.

Farida Kabayao, singer-pianist-actor and daughter of Violing Virtuoso Gilopez Kabayao and international pianist Corazon Kabayao, will do the role of Annie Sullivan, the ever-patient teacher who changed the course of Helen Keller's life, transforming the blind Helen from a temperamental girl to a fine lady.

Other members of the cast are Richelle Dollosa as Helen Keller, Jon Jainga as Captain Arthur Keller, Dora Jane Balleras as Kate Keller, Teddy Tan Jr. as James Keller and Deanna Hortillosa as Aunt Eve, Carmelle Frances Romero as Viney and Elizabeth Catipay as Martha.

Cecile Buencamino Licad CD

CECILE Licad

THE FRANCISCO Buencamino Music Foundation Inc. was organized more than two decades ago by the musical Buencamino clan as a nonprofit entity. Its purpose is to provide scholarship grants to musically talented Filipino students.

Its success in achieving this objective has relied principally on fundraising activities. The foundation is coming out for the first time with an exclusive Cecile Buencamino Licad CD, a collector's item of piano solos. Licad is the pride and joy of the clan, according to Nanett Sinco, board member and aunt of Licad.

Only a limited number of copies are available. The foundation will release the album on Oct. 15.

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Winners will be informed through registered mail.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1078 Series of 2005

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Rafael's literary tsunami—on CD

Ingles writes the way he knows best –gracefully

By Nelson Nava Pl. Turgo
Contributor

POETS don't fade away. Their works endure. And some poets, resisting the vagaries of time, keep flirting with words with the ardor and exuberance of youth.

Raul Rafael Ingles, University of the Philippines professor emeritus, former president of the UP Writers Club, "a man with the soul of a poet and the patience of a saint," continues to write with enthusiasm. He writes the way he knows best—gracefully.

Take "Felice's Lament":

When he mounted me he moved with / The unerring precision of an executioner; / When he held my hips to sustain /His rhythms, he became furious— / The sightless horseman galloping drunkenly / Into the valley of my unleashed desire.

I was mother earth spread out unto the horizon / And he the tree that emerged from the ground: / A solid trunk from which emanated branches, / Leaves, flowers—bees hovering to sip / Droplets of honey from throbbing pistils, at last / Withdrawing by tiptoeing gently through petals / Of tumescence.

I blush to think of what he did to me— / I, a strong-willed woman, hopelessly / Fragile upon the onslaught of a phantom / Lover astride a prancing steed.

RAUL Rafael Ingles

Spanish, too

A translation of a poem in Spanish by director Javier Galvan of the Instituto Cervantes was beautifully recited by Elizabeth Enriquez:

Mi Dios llena el vacio en lla fealdad de la faz humana: / Atenua los fallos de la imperfeccion— / Este Dios busca, y no construye su casa en lugares / Puros y sagrados, sino en aisladas cuevas donde / Pecadores desperados han descubierto que la / iniquidad es en voluble maestro.

Llega sin ser invitado / Casa las mañas del hombre con su justicia / Las pasiones terrenales con el benigno brillo de Su / Omnipresencia. Cuando soy de lo mas bueno

No se le encuentra ya que El y yo perdemos / Nuestra identidad. De que otra forma puede / la cara humana / Asumir la perfecta configuracion?

Ingles is not your ordinary poet. He does more.

Imagine listening to a compact disc of these poems, the lilting voices of Loren Legarda and Cheche Lazaro contemplating love and death and passion and seduction while the music of Mozart plays in the background.

Mind-blowing

If you were at the recent launching of "Poems by Rafael," a compilation on CD of the works as recited by prominent personages, at the UP College of Mass Communication auditorium, you might have found it a mind-blowing experience.

The event was attended by the literati and culturati: Gilda Cordero-Fernando, Gemino H. Abad, Deanna Ongpin-Recto, Georgina R. Encanto, Gregorio C. Brillantes, José Hernani S. David, Elena E. Pernia, Socorro Llamas, Edsel Moscoso.

The CD is a unique production, the first of its kind in the country.

Recorded at the UP college's broadcasting studio, it contains 24 poems in English, Filipino, Spanish and French.

Aside from Legarda and Lazaro, Antonio Mabesa, Gerry Se, Victor Avecilla, Elizabeth Enriquez, Juanito Banaag and Lourdes Brillantes also lent their voices to the project.

From the definition of love to the voice of an old man dressing up for a funeral, Ingles holds his audience like no other with his impeccable array of images and salutary metaphors that only a seasoned poet could deftly weave into a colorful tapestry of life.

The poet sheepishly confessed he had qualms about reaching for his "impossible dream."

The work is not merely for self-gratification. He informed Emerlinda R. Roman, president of the UP system, that he was offering it for the state university's centennial celebration. Part of the proceeds from CD sales will go to the Centennial Fund.

The CD "Poems by Rafael" is now available at the UP Press Bookstore, Diliman Campus, Quezon City.

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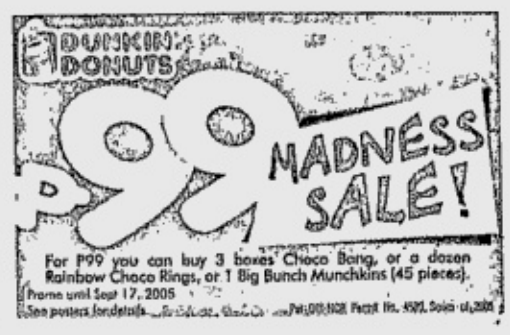


Behold the book of life, sort of

Bill Bryson

A Short History of Nearly Everything

This amazingly accessible look at how the Earth works and how much we don't know really is a guide to all about 'Nearly Everything'

"A Short History of Nearly Everything"
By Bill Bryson
Black Swan, London
2004, 687 pages

By Ruel S. De Vera

OWING to a lifetime of memorizing complicated chemical formulae and color-coded cross-sections of various creatures, many readers are not altogether enthused by the idea of reading about science if they weren't interested in science to begin with.

When we think of science books, we think of narcolepsy-inducing textbooks, smelling of lab chemicals, with impenetrable prose whose purpose was to be regurgitated in time for the midterm.

Yet now comes along a science book that isn't only important but beautiful, yes, beautiful. It's not your typical book about science either, because it seeks to give us the entire history of our existence—and the processes behind it—all in a paperback book.

Please acquaint yourself with bemedalled travel author Bill Bryson's "A Short History of Nearly Everything," a nonfiction tome with a title typical of the book's tongue-in-cheek humor and its frankness.

More than anyone else, Bryson is familiar with the existing biases against science writing, which often, in his words, "means that anything scientists say about the theory begins to sound worryingly like the sort of thoughts that would make you edge away if conveyed to you by a stranger on a park bench."

You won't find that problem with Bryson. Rare will you see someone explain complex ideas so well, in a manner that is both elucidating and entertaining. Don't believe it? Know of any other writer who would dare describe the carbon atom as "the party animal of the atomic world?"

Accessible

From explaining the Big Bang to expounding on how atoms behave, from presenting the principles of physics to manifesting man's road to development, Bryson fills "A Short History" with engaging information rendered with a light touch, accessible to any reader.

Bryson also stays at a manageable altitude, choosing not to pretend when he comes across a topic too difficult to explain. Along the way, he talks about such things as Brownian Motion, the Periodic Table, singularities, Homo Erectus and meteors.

A crucial aspect, as well as a highly compelling one, of "A Short History" is how the book discusses the many individuals whose contributions have proven invaluable to modern science as we know it.

Bryson discusses figures as familiar as Charles Darwin, Isaac Newton, Albert Einstein and Gregor Mendeleyev and more obscure ones as well, endowing them with both a surprising humanity and a sense of significance.

Bryson's character studies illuminate how many of the greatest moments in scientific thinking have arisen from serendipity as much as life-long study. According to "A Short History," the human race has been as much remarkable as lucky.

Bringing his capacity for clarity to the fore, Bryson discusses both sides of the major controversies in recent scientific history, debunking and reaffirming when necessary. But he never gets preachy or sanctimonious

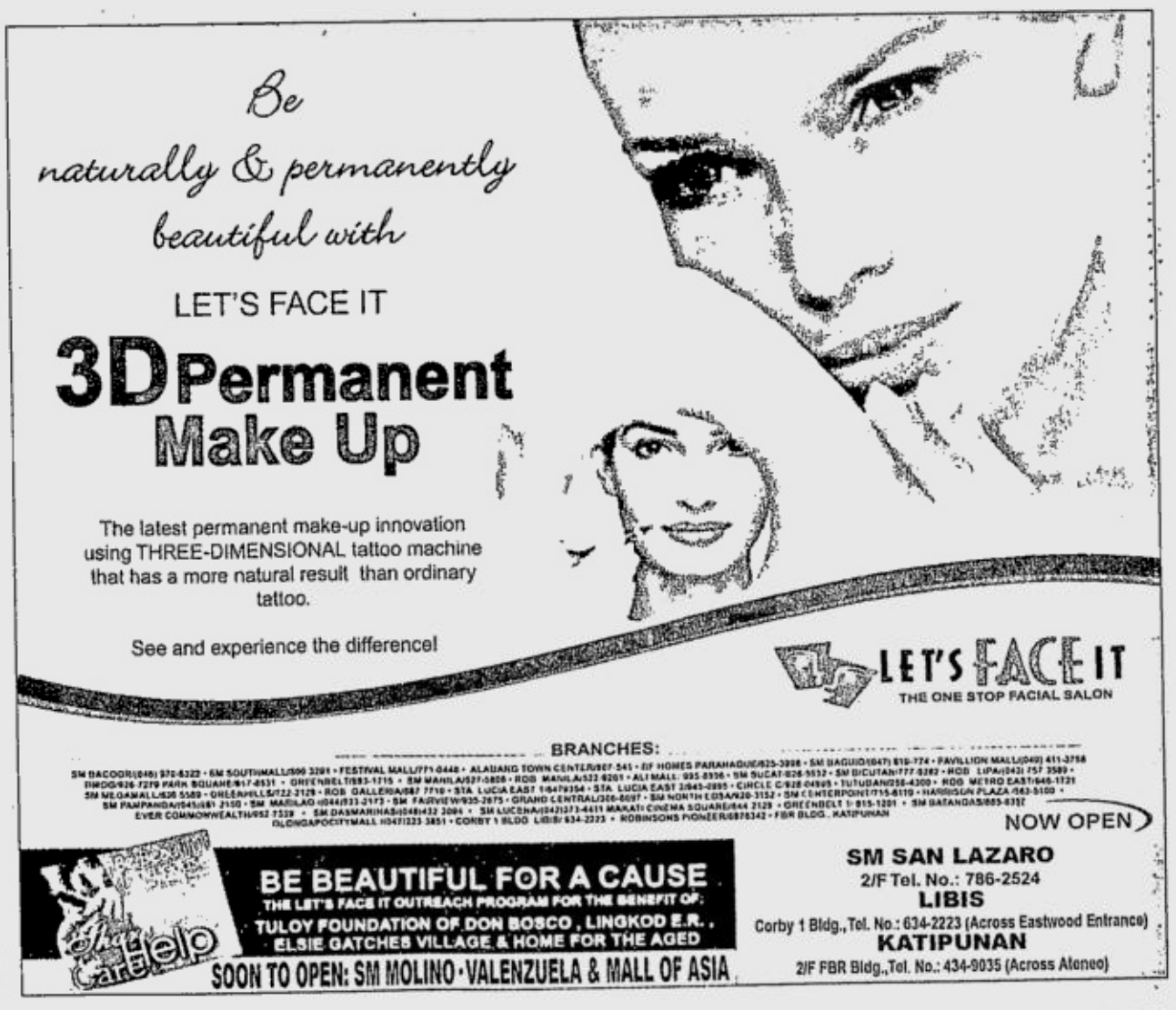
If anything, Bryson revels in the deep mysteries of our existence, the wide realm of the unknown that has captivated human thought from the beginning: "The upshot of all this is that we live in a universe whose age we can't quite compute, surrounded by stars whose distances from us and each other we don't altogether know, filled with matter we can't identify, operating in conformance with physical laws whose properties we don't truly understand."

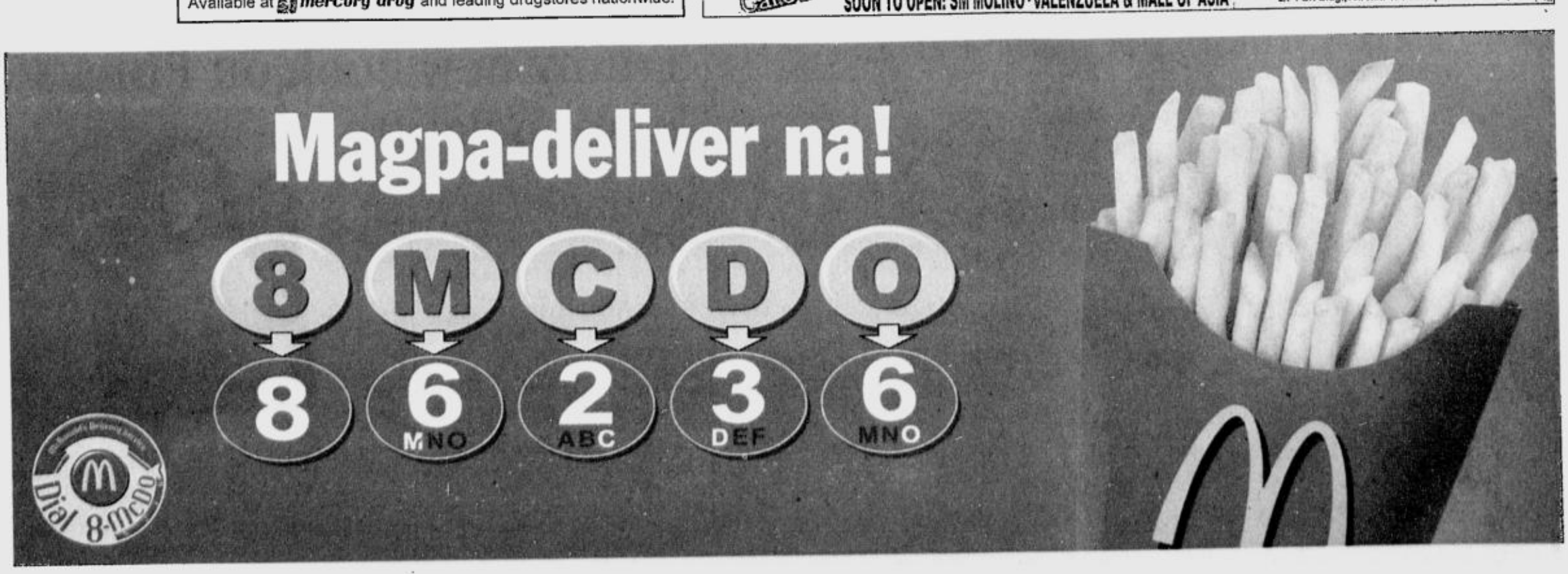
Now, certainly people who have a strong distaste for anything related to evolution might not warm up to "A Short History" no matter how well written it is, but most readers will discover that Bryson has found a relatively irresistible hook: "A Short History of Nearly Everything" is like a novel about the history of the Earth and men of science are his heroes (and sometimes villains).

It is rare to find a book so pitch-perfect, one whose balance between creative and chemical is as delicate as that between man and the forces he seeks to harness.

"We have been chosen," Bill Bryson writes, "by fate or providence or whatever you wish to call it. As far as we can tell, we are the best there is. We may be all there is. It's an unnerving thought that we may be the living universe's supreme achievement and its worst nightmare simultaneously."

Available at National Book Store and PowerBooks.





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Beauty, nutrition and show biz in September mags

METRO magazine comes up with comprehensive beauty guide in its Beauty Special this September.

Read about optimum skin care for every age, from your 20s to your 50s, and consult its helpful table of the best facial treatments in town.

Read up on the cover girl, Kris Aquino, in a gorgeous pictorial by Jun de Leon.

Also in the issue, black returns with a vengeance in stunning gowns and chic corporate ensembles, modeled by the men and women who bring you the news on ANC.

Find out why sex can really be good for your health! Plus, get the chance to win more than P400,000 in beauty services and treatments.

In Chalk magazine, catch Alessandra de Rossi and Melissa Ricks on the cover and read the expert's guide to flawless skin, beautiful makeup and gorgeous hair.

Win P30,000 worth of beauty items as Chalk answers all your *kikay* concerns with its big beauty special.

Heart Evangelista, Anne Curtis, Claudine Barretto and KC Concepcion let you in on their beauty must-haves. Plus, the latest trends in military and Edwardian fashion and ways to look stylish even in the rainy weather. On Sept. 16, at Robinson's Place Manila, join the fun and entertainment as Chalk launches its Shoe Collection.

In Pink magazine, win P10,000 worth of shopping spree and a home makeover.

Catch Heart Evangelista and Geoff Eigenmann on the cover.

Starstudio's September issue is a special collector's edition as the magazine celebrates the 12th anniversary of Star Cinema and lists down the Top 12 movies of the studio.

On the cover are Aga Muhlach, Claudine Barretto and John Lloyd Cruz, who headline Star Cinema's latest film, "Dubai."

Plus, the exclusive coverage of the ABS-CBN's "Kapamilya U.S. Caravan." Ryan Agoncillo talks about Judy Ann Santos. There are also reports on Jerry Yan in Cebu, Aga in London and Jericho Rosales in Brussels.

Food magazine discovers the 10 best homemade desserts. Join the free culinary workshop on Sept. 22. Call 4152272 loc. 4640.

Working Mom magazine scours fast food joints in the market for good, nutritious food. Dawn Zulueta-Lagdameo is on the cover.

Call 4152272 loc. 4656 to 58 for subscription.

Fil-Am businesswoman launches book

IS THERE life after the slums?

This question and more will be answered by Celia Ruiz-Tomlinson—former slum dweller and now successful entrepreneur in the US—when she launches her highly inspirational autobiography "Don't Ever Tell Me You Can't!" tomorrow, 7 p.m., at the Skylounge of Citadel Inn Makati.

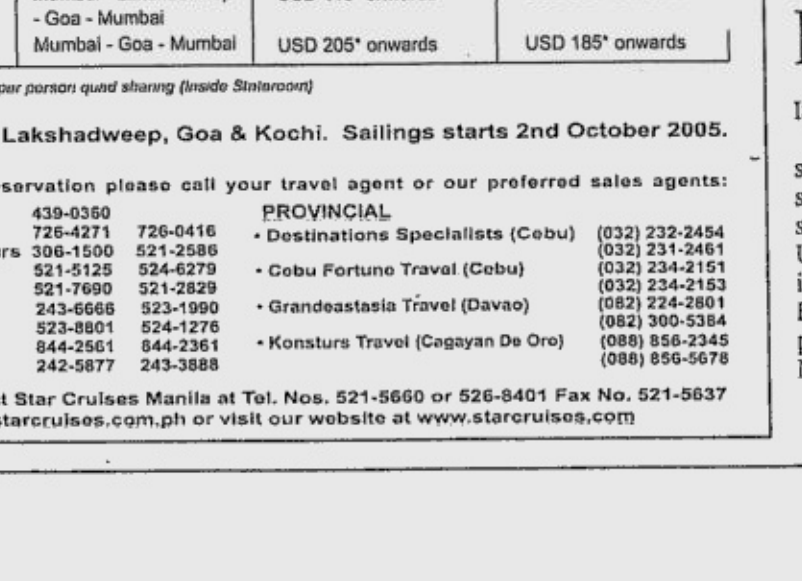
Tomlinson is president and chief executive officer of Rhombus, P.A., Inc., a professional engineering firm founded, owned and operated by a minority female engineer in the US.

She was named 1992 Minority Entrepreneur of the Year by the US National P Service and is listed in "Who is Who in American Women."

A recipient of New Mexico's Outstanding Women and Trailblazer awards, she's the author of Celia (Computerized Evaluation of Lived-in Areas), an inspection program that has been used by US housing authorities.

Proceeds of the sale of her book will go to the Rotary Club of Makati Uptown's Hearing Awareness Program for the benefit of the poor, school children of F. Benitez Elementary School of Barangay Singkamas in Makati.

When a door closes, a window opens ....



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Instituto Cervantes launches Quijano de Manila journalism award

INSTITUTO Cervantes de Manila, Spain's cultural arm and language school in the Philippines, pays tribute to Nick Joaquin with the First Journalism Award named after the eminent writer, journalist and National Artist.

Considered the greatest and most prolific Filipino writer in English of his generation, Nick Joaquin, who was also known by the nom de plume Quijano de Manila (his worshipful nod to Cervantes's "Don Quijote"), had a profound sense of history and explained the unfolding of Philippine history with brilliant insight and a connectivity like no other Filipino writer could.

Instituto Cervantes de Manila, through the Journalism Award, intends to preserve Nick Joaquin's literary legacy and to promote his works abroad.

The contest's theme is the "Significance of Spanish as an international language and as a culture in today's world and its special interest for Filipinos."

Entries must have been published in any Philippine newspaper or magazine or broadcast in any national television or radio within Jan. 1 to Dec. 31.

Works must be original. Authors may submit more than one entry. Works in Filipino should be submitted with translations in English or Spanish.

For a published work, the contestant must submit one copy of the newspaper/magazine in which the feature appeared, with the entry highlighted. Four photocopies of the article in size A4 paper must be submitted.

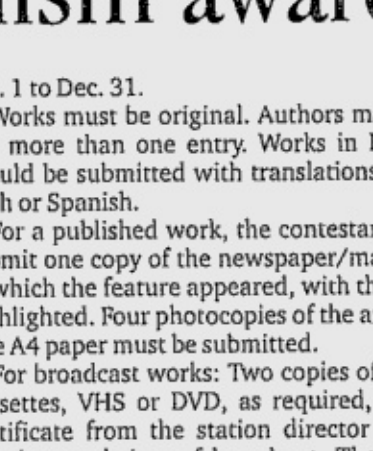
For broadcast works: Two copies of audiocassettes, VHS or DVD, as required, with a certificate from the station director stating the date and time of broadcast. The copies must be clearly identified with the title of the entry, the official seal of the company and signature of the show where the entry appeared.

Entries should be sent to: Instituto Cervantes de Manila, Premio de Periodismo Quijano de Manila, 2515 Leon Guinto and Estrada Sts. 1004 Malate, Manila. Deadline is Jan. 10, 2006.

The first prize winner will get P75,000; the second prize winner, P25,000.

Call 5261482 up to 85.

Funny new book on Pinoy nomenclature



ONLY in the Philippines will you bump into a hair salon named Felix d' Cut, a money changer that calls itself Starbucks and a Japanese takeout restaurant named Ta-Ke Ho-me. Only in the Philippines will you find parents calling their children Bingbing, Bongbong, Dingdong and other doorbell nicknames.

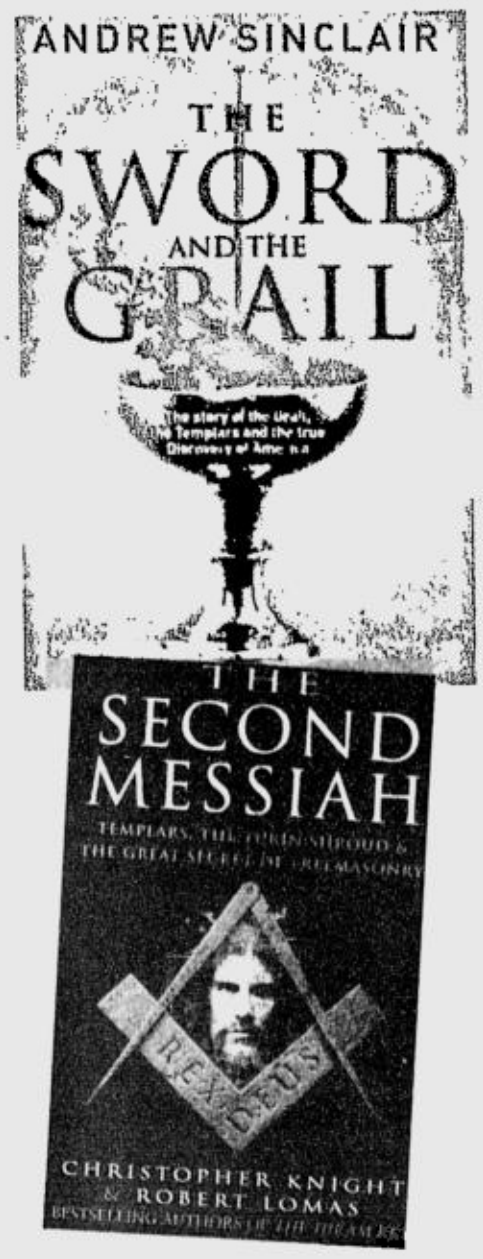
Tahanan Books celebrates Filipinos as marvelous wordsmiths with the release of "Ngalang Pinoy: A Primer on Filipino Wordplay."

From the makers of the runaway best seller "You Know You're Filipino If... a Pinoy Primer," the new rib-tickling companion volume is edited by Neni Sta. Romana-Cruz, illustrated and photographed by Dindo Llana; and with additional photography by Dindin Najera.

Beginning with hilarious names we give our babies, the book is replete with examples of the funniest names Pinoys have coined under the sun, from laundromats to movie titles. An irresistible gift book for both natives and *balikbayan* alike, "Ngalang Pinoy" is published and distributed in the Philippines by Tahanan Books. Available at National Bookstore, PowerBooks, and Fully Booked. Call 8182482 or e-mail carlos@tahananbooks.com

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

September reads



FILL your head with historical facts, interesting theories and fantastic stories with PowerBooks Specialty Store's list of recommended reads this September.

Uncover the mysteries of Freemasonry and the true historical Jesus in "The Second Messiah: Templars, the Turin Shroud, and the Great Secret of Freemasonry" by Christopher Knight and Robert Lomas.

"Babylon Rising: The Secret of Ararat" by Tim LaHaye and Bob Phillips revolves around Biblical scholar Michael Murphy's pursuit of one of the most mysterious and sought-after Biblical artifacts, Noah's Ark.

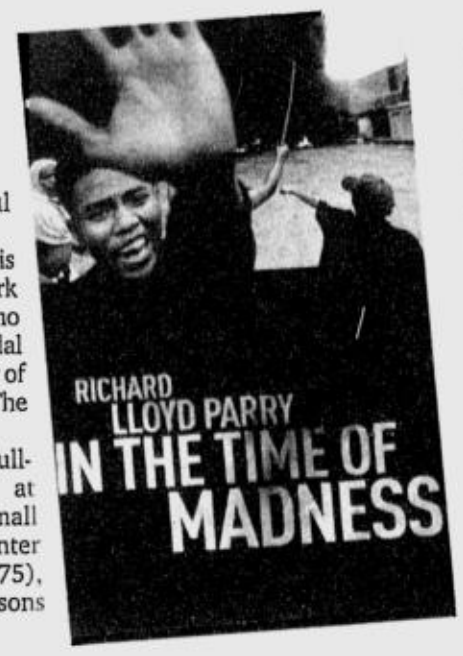
Based on stunning new archeological evidence, both in the UK and the USA, Andrew Sinclair's "Sword and Grail: The Story of the Grail, the Templars, and Discovery of America" details the part played by the Order of the Knights of the Templar—here proved to be the true antecedents of the Freemasons—in the discovery of America.

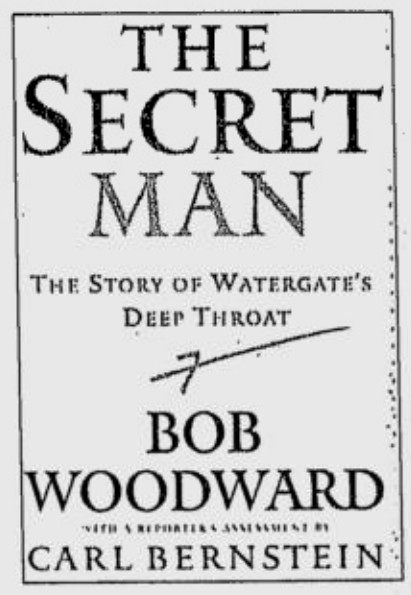
"In the Time of Madness" contains riveting accounts of events of searing violence observed by British newspaper correspondent Richard Lloyd Parry in West Kalimantan, Borneo, Java, and East Timor. Many of Parry's accounts are horrific but present often-ignored facts of history and are relevant to anyone who seeks to understand the deep problems of Indonesia and its diverse peoples.

In "Men in Black," radio talk show host and legal scholar Mark Levin dissects the judicial tyranny that is robbing American society of freedom in favor of unchecked liberal policies.

Bob Woodward tells the story of his long and complex relationship with Mark Felt, aka Deep Throat, the man who helped break open the Watergate scandal in 1972 and bring down the presidency of Richard Nixon, in "The Secret Man: The Secret of Washington's Deep Throat."

PowerBooks Specialty Store is a full-service bookstore with branches at Greenbelt 4 (7576428 to 29), Megamall (6352898 to 99), Alabang Town Center (8505662 to 63), Glorietta (7527075), Shangri-La (6380023/25) and Robinsons Place Ermita (5233334/5243448).





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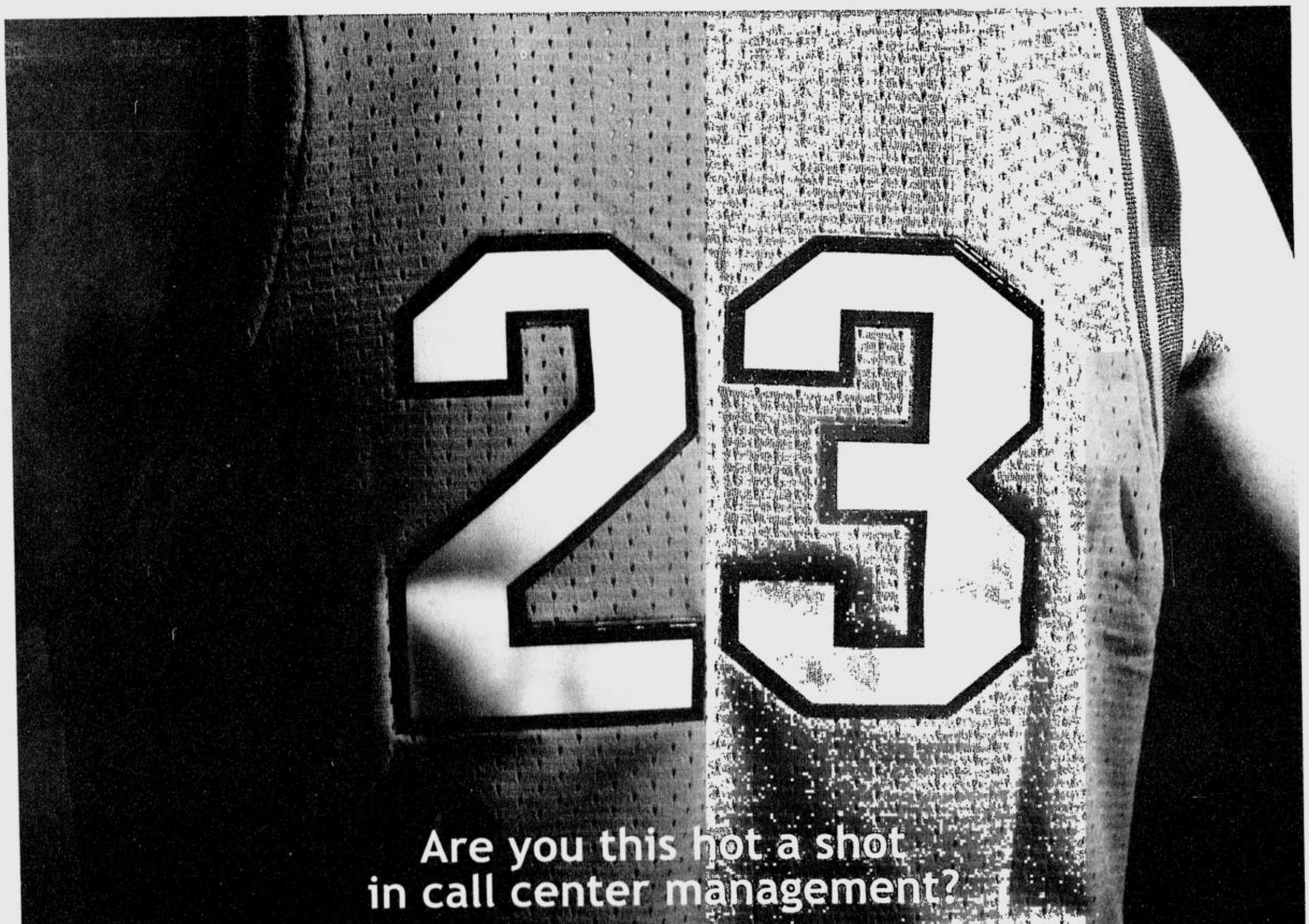

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"TIES That Bind"

Portrait of evil

Melvin Culaba's art unfolds a world of hellish images and vision of poor humanity

By Constantino C. Tejero

"MAY Halaga ang Piso"

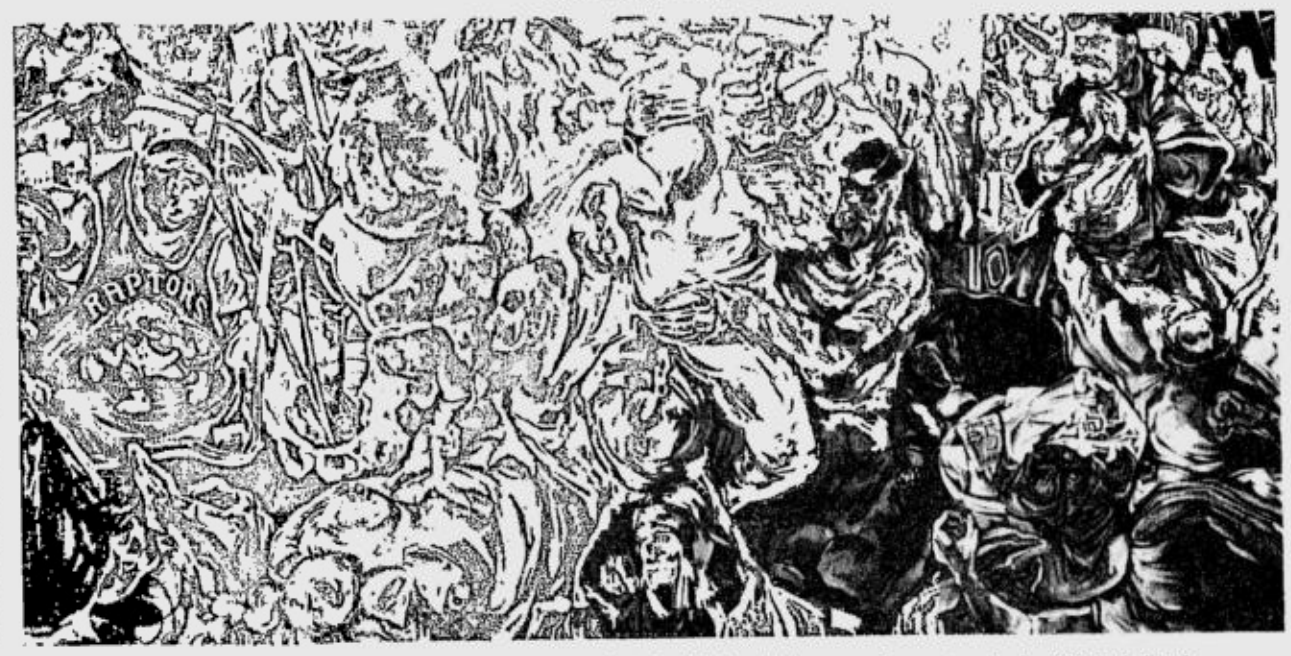
ONE of the best-kept secrets of the Philippine art world must be Melvin Culaba.

While his peers and contemporaries have achieved some reputation, and though he's been consistently cited and awarded in major art competitions, the painter has remained relatively unknown.

In fact, at 33, he's holding only his second solo exhibit, "Kalooban," some 20 pieces in oil on canvas, until Sept. 18 at Pasilyo Victorio Edades (4/F Hallway) of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

One glance and the viewer is plunged into exciting art. While Culaba's first solo exhibit last year, "Kamalayan," seemed to express the artist's social conscience and at the same time expand the viewer's social consciousness, this one appears to enjoin us to look inward, to examine ourselves and see our guilt and responsibility in the social evils happening around us—as the beginning of social awareness.

Culaba has had as classmates at the University of Sto. Tomas College of Architecture and Fine Arts the likes of Alfredo Esquillo and Ronald Ventura, but he doesn't paint like them at all. His is an art associated with that of Elmer Borlongan, Emmanuel Garibay, Jeho Betancor—social realists with expressionist tendencies.



"PULA, Puti at Bughaw"

"PINIRATA"

Colorful world

Culaba's paintings are composed of no more than outlines and highlights on gray-brown undertones, but they possess a restless energy, vitality and power. Broad spontaneous brushstrokes have reduced the figures to their basic shapes, yet they come vividly alive. The palette has been limited to brown, yellow, green, blue, violet, some red, yet a most colorful world has been created.

His harsh treatment of form and freedom of execution result in a vibrancy of style exemplified by the works of the German Expressionists Oskar Kokoschka and Karl Schmidt-Rottluff. This forceful and dynamic style, of course, can be traced to Van Gogh.

But Culaba's figures also recall Lucian Freud in their massive volume of flesh, and even Michelangelo in the heaving mass of bodies. The bald heads come from Munch by way of Danny Dalena and Onib Olmedo down to Garibay, Borlongan, Andres Barrioquinto, even Pedro Garcia.

(The artist admits his favorites are Dalena, Van Gogh, Munch, Toulouse-Lautrec, and Garibay.)

While most social realists concentrate on a specific issue such as agrarian unrest, labor exploitation or urban poverty, his concerns are far-ranging.

Aside from depicting street-sweepers, beggars, the disabled, rallying vendors, stranded commuters, lonely painters and musicians, crowded apartment-dwellers, sleepy students and churchgoers, he also exposes the madness of pollution, pornography, road rage, election campaigns, Christmas bazaars.

Violent satires

In fact, his is a portrait of evil—as envisioned by the New Objectivity painters Otto Dix, Christian Schad, Max Beckmann.

The central tenet of this pre-Nazi art movement is to "portray the face of evil for purposes of violent social satires." Characteristic of the art is a deep cynicism and resignation and an

PORTRAIT/ E4

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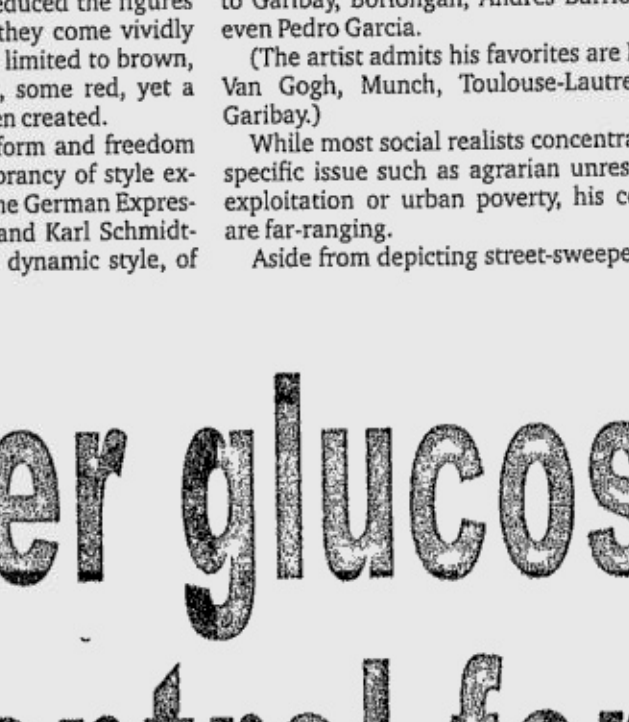

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Pagan at Duemila, Ventura at West, Reyes at Avellana

SPANISH artist Gines Serran Pagan showcases paintings that recall his fond memories of his time in the Philippines. The artist confesses that his links to the country go deeper than his memories. In his latest exhibition of artworks, architectural objects and other commonalities that link the two countries are prevalent, not least of which are tiles, woodwork, and crucifixes. "Memory of the Philippines" runs until Sept. 18, in Galleria Duemila, SM Megamall A. Call 6343261, telefax 633-6687 or email duemila@info.com.ph / duemila@mydestiny.net. Visit www.galleriaduemila.com.

RONALD Ventura mounts "Morph" until Sept. 13 in West Gallery, SM Megamall. Ventura, winner of this year's Ateneo Art Award, explores the landscapes of the human body and its terrains which are strange and familiar at the same time. A multi-awarded artist, Ventura took up Painting at the UST College of Fine Arts and Design. Call 6341284.

VISUAL ARTS

OPENING today in Avellana Art Gallery is "Hard Creatures," a collection of sculptural pieces by Pidge Reyes. Made of construction cement, the works are movements registered in stone, either replicating in geometric patterns or expanding into amorphous shapes. The artist, working with the bare and brutal look of the material, incorporated shards of metal and crystal into the pieces: an imposition of artistic will on something permanent and unwieldy. At once rudimentary and visionary, Reyes' creations could be interpreted as relics of contemporary time. Avellana Art Gallery is at A-19, 2680 F.B. Harrison St., Pasay City (fronting Gideon Academy). Call 8338357.

"BURNT" is Eric G. Guazon's third solo exhibit of paintings in oil over acrylic on canvas. The show explores the terrain of loss—the catharsis that comes alongside its pains and the many life truths it forces us to face. The exhibit runs until Sept. 7 at The Big & Small Art Co., The Artwalk, 4/L, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. Call 6877425.

GALERIA DE LAS ISLAS in Intramuros presents "Sinauna at Ngayon," featuring Dan Libor's works in oil, pastel and charcoal. The show runs until Sept. 24. Call 5272113.

PARDO DE LEON presents "Field of Poppies," until Sept. 13 in Finale Art Gallery, 4/L, Building A, Megamall, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City. The exhibit features six oil-on-canvas paintings.

"ARTiculation" by Romulo Olazo, Cris Cruz, Edwin Wilwayco, Cobie Cruz and Rico Lascano runs until Sept. 11, at Finale Art File in Makati. Call 8151813 or 8104071.

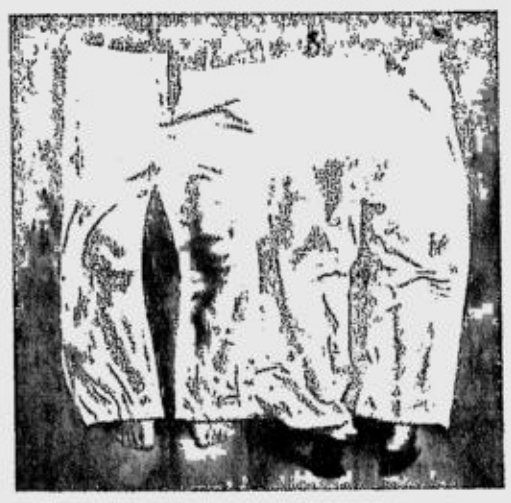
COLORIST and abstract painter Michel Herbert opens "Transparences" today at Alliance Total Gallery. Herbert Michel will present 24 art pieces including two large-scale paintings and a majestic "waterfall" on the staircase of Alliance Française. Exhibit runs until Sept. 30. Call 8957441 or 8957585 or e-mail cultural"alliance.ph

GALERIE ASTRA presents Helena Dunn's "Meditations" on Sept. 9-22 at 2/F, LRI Business Plaza, 210 Nicanor Garcia St., Makati. In this exhibit, Dunn showcases works that reflect emotions from her past experiences. Call 7243032/ 8903988/ 7269015.

THE ART Discovery and Learning Foundation, Inc. presents the first one-man show of Marcelo Quezon on Sept. 3-17 on the ground floor of Triumph Building, Quezon Avenue, QC.

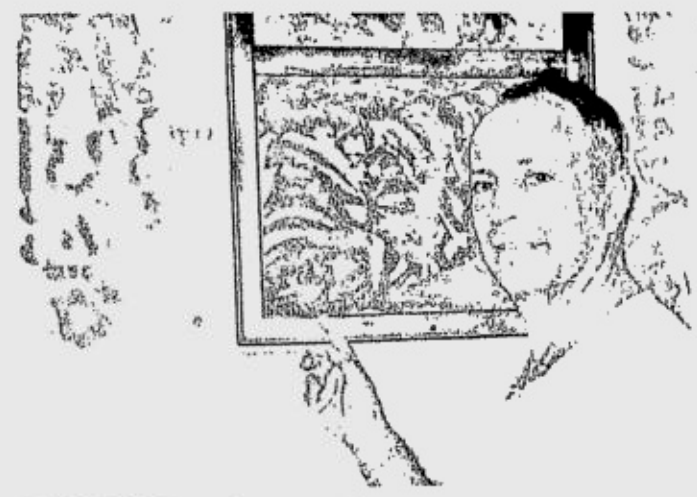
NICOTINA Garden Pavilion holds Bart Aguas' "Glaze n' Craze" on Sept. 10-30. The exhibit brings to the fore the artist's style of painting on tiles, with religious, Asian and Middle Eastern motifs. Nicotina is at Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. Call 5517906 to 07.

GALLERIA Duemila features Charlie Co's "Dead-line" on Sept. 20-Oct. 9 at 4/L, Megamall A. The exhibit is Co's personal view on what is happening to our nation. Call 6343261/ 6336687.

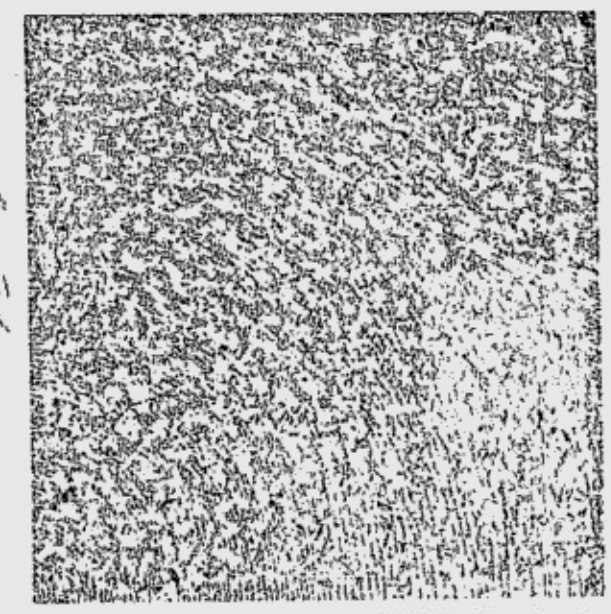


"BASIC," by Ronald Ventura

"INFINITE VISION" by Carlos Gil "Totong" Francisco II of Angono, Rizal; "Re-veil" by Vince Darwin "Winner" Jumalon of Zamboanga City; "Pigments of the Imagination" by Nelia Lungay of Bohol, Estela Ocampo Fernandez of Cebu City and Cristina Taniguchi of Dumaguete City; and "Imahe sa Banakal" (driftwood assemblages of Alan Rapsing of Pakil, Laguna) will be on view at Nineveh Artspace, 2452 Villa Silangan Subdivision, Sta. Cruz, Laguna, Sept. 11-Oct. 10. Call Louie Sevilla at (049) 8086617 or 0916-7720368.



MICHEL Herbert, abstract artist



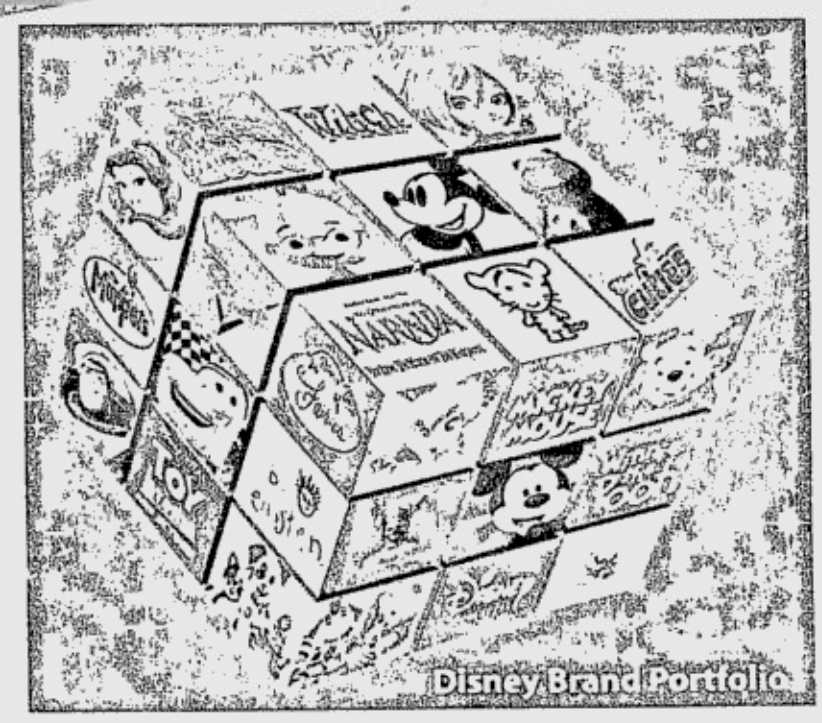
"FIELD of Poppies," by Pardo de Leon

"I only hope that we don't lose sight of one thing - that it was all started by a mouse."

-Walt Disney

Indeed, it all started with Mickey Mouse and after over 100 years, The Walt Disney Company has evolved into a multi-faceted business and is one of the best recognized brands in the whole world. From Disney Studio Entertainment, Disney Parks and Resorts, Disney Media Networks and Disney Consumer Products, Disney is an extremely well-diversified corporation that has become the leading Kids and Family brand, touching people's lives like nobody else...

Interbrand ranks Disney as the 7th most valuable brand among the top 100 global brands and the #1 entertainment brand. The annual Forbes "Top Character Franchise list" puts Pooh and Mickey as the world's most valuable characters.



Kids in Disney Princess Apparel

Fun Characters, Inc.

Fun Characters, Inc. (FCI) is the Marketing Licensee of Disney Consumer Products International in the Philippines. Beibi Salazar, Managing Director of Fun Characters, Inc., explains that "Disney Consumer Products (DCP) is the business unit of The Walt Disney Company that extends the Disney properties such as Mickey Mouse, Winnie the Pooh, Disney Princess, Classic Pooh, Disney Baby, Toy Story, Finding Nemo, The Incredibles, etc., to merchandise ranging from apparel, toys, stationery, home decor and books to food and beverages, electronics, personal care and publishing."

Spearheaded by businessman George T. Yang and Managing Director for the Philippines, V. Beibi Salazar, FCI has placed Disney Consumer Products at the #1 position in the characters merchandise business in the country. Since it's inception in 1991, FCI has consistently delivered the Disney magic through high-quality, fun and entertaining products as well as brought Disney Characters closer to the hearts of its consumers through the staging of various major events and tie-in promotions with the country's leading brands.

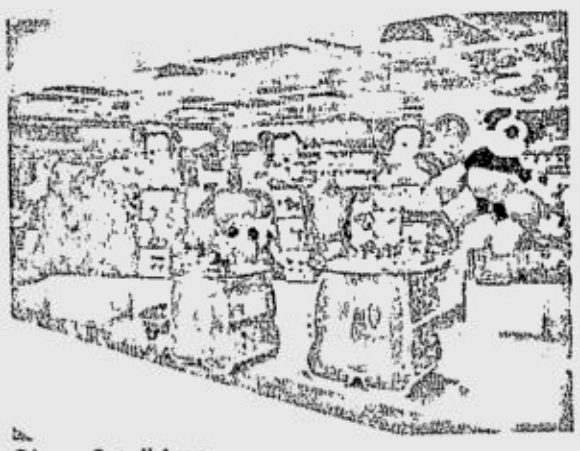
"Due to FCI's success in the Philippines, FCI continued to expand and in 2002 was appointed Marketing Licensee for Disney Consumer Products Int'l in Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Brunei and Vietnam," George Yang explains.

FCI's expansion and integration opens gates to new businesses and opportunities. With company-wide support and a close working relationship with it's principal licensees and partners, FCI aims to take the character business to greater heights.

For licensing opportunities, contact FCI at (632) 848 6563 or email Claire Calleja, Yara Macalindong or Joey Atendido at claire.calleja@fun-characters.com, yara.macalindong@fun-characters.com or joanna.atendido@fun-characters.com For promotional opportunities, e-mail Kate Villaluna at kate.villaluna@fun-characters.com

Meet & Greet during Pooh Halloween Party 2004

Disney Princess Fashion Show at Megamall 2004



Disney Retail Area

"ENCOUNTERS with the Crows," by Nelia Lungay

BY PIDGE Reyes

Disney Tradeshow 2005

Fun Characters Inc. is holding a Disney Tradeshow at the Mandarin Oriental Makati on September 5, 2005 from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm. The event will showcase to retailers, promotional partners and prospective licensees the latest range of Disney merchandise as apparel, fashion accessories, footwear, toys stationery, food, health & beauty, home furnishings, consumer electronics and publishing featuring Disney's core properties Mickey, Winnie the Pooh, Classic Pooh, Princess and Disney Baby. FCI will also launch new, exciting properties as Chicken Little, The Chronicles of Narnia, W.I.T.C.H., Disney Fairies, Disney Cuties, Pirates of the Caribbean, Baby Einstein and Cars.

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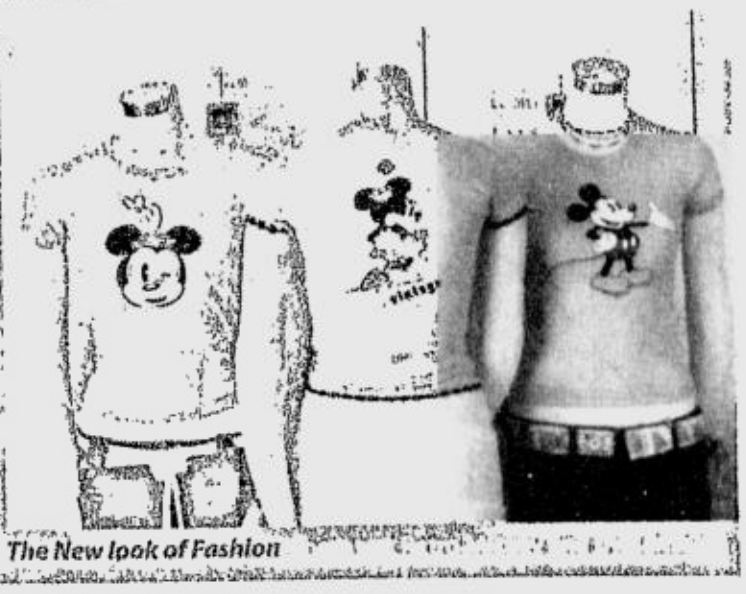

The New look of Fashion

Portrait of evil

From page E1

objective realism that's unidealized (but also "a harsh grotesque portrayal of the subject" and "a hallucinatory degree of reality").

All of the above are exhibited by Culaba's paintings. It is social criticism rendered in intensely expressionistic style.

His show is distinguished by series or groupings. In last year's exhibit, the largest pieces comprised a series of swirling multitudes, of which the centerpiece was "Pwersa," a stupefying vision of writhing souls reminiscent of Michelangelo's "Last Judgment."

"*Maraming* composition studies *'yan* before *mabuo, pinag-aralan ko mga puwesto,*" the artist reveals. "It took one month in preparation and two weeks in rendering."

If there's a canvas teeming with life and movement, this is it. Here the masses come in full force. The title must be referring to social forces, or the forces of evil. "*Haluhalo na*—religious, social, political," agrees the artist.

At 6 ft x 6 ft, the canvas is clogged with golden-brown human figures in a free-for-all, civilians and insurgents, government officials, the military, the clergy, floating, running, screaming, pulling hair, pontificating, engaged in sex and violence, prayer, solitude, lamentation.

Hellish images

Culaba's latest works show similar hellish images and the same vision of poor humanity. A series of big canvases depicts the teeming multitude in abrupt shifts of color tones, from green and umber to gold and ochre to blue and brown.

"KULABA"

"Pula, Puti at Bughaw" is clogged with humanity mingling with dogs, rabbits, raptors, monkeys with shopping bag or violin, birds of prey, in a circus, cockfight, noontime game show, or *ukay-ukay*. The tricolor suggested by the title and used in rendering the scene points to it as a microcosm of Philippine society.

"Ties That Bind" shows a room

"BERTDEY"

choked with sundry objects, from Moriones mask to Jollibee mascot to Bencab painting, a glass of *halo-halo*, clothes on hanger, *buri* fan, faux Tiffany lampshade, ceramic coffee mug, *sampaguita* garland, *cuatro cantos*, miniature *vinta*, music sheets, bicycle, slipper, campaign visor, karaoke set, Santo Niño icon, framed photograph and diploma—objects that supposedly identify the Filipino—but this might as well be a throbbing throng of people.

Another series depicts the desperation in the lives of the urban poor: the vendors of bootleg DVDs in "Pinirata"; the flag-seller and cat-eater in "Lamang-Tiyan"; the billboard painters and installers in "Saloobin"; the mournful masses in "Parangal kay Da King"; the commuters waiting for a ride by a public urinal in "Puta! Sobrang Panghe! Pwe!"

Urban madness

Rendered in blue, green, gray and brown with strips of red, pink, orange and yellow, these pieces are smaller but no less crammed and busy as they expose the urban madness in the streets and the inner city, from shameless commercialization to shameful electioneering.

In "Everything for Sale," everything is really for sale, from e-load to WOW Philippines to barbecued chicken legs, including one's prepubescent child.

In "May Halaga ang Piso," a blind man and a bag woman cross the pedestrian lane while a cigarette peddler picks up a coin on the pavement as onrushing buses come their way.

There's also a series of portraits of desolation: groggy denizens of the night, drunks and prostitutes, late commuters, weary bodies and bored, anxious or desperate faces.

(Even the series of still lifes of chairs—"Pwisto" 1-4 and "Hagdan"—speaks of absence. Even the artist's self-portrait looks lonely and blue.)

They are tableaux of shady characters and vignettes of isolated individuals: "Hulk," "Remote-Controlled," "Hudas," "1 Litre of Ordinary Blood," "Supsup-Daliri," "Bertdey." Here, some of the faces have turned swinish or canine.

All these paintings form a compassionate portrait of the long-suffering masses. Here Culaba has created an infernal world of social evils, where the human becomes beastly, the place is a pigsty, and society has gone to the dogs. It is an epic vision, no less.

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SACRED images at Sta. Ana /F4

AT THE LOPEZ Museum, studies and sketches (left) lead to the final work by a master (right).

Hits and misses of art's gestation

By Jessica Jalandoni-Robillos
Contributor

INITIAL Musings" at the Lopez Museum consists of sketches and drawings and even studies in oil by premier artists from Luz to Luna, all part of the museum's trove.

In 18th-century France, art criticism had just been freed from the exclusivity that the Academy had bound it with. This coincided with the advent of the Salons, annual art expositions during which "criticism by men more or less informed on the subject" began and flourished.

Noted among these critics was Denis Diderot, who expressed the prevalent opinion of that time that "it is the chief business of art to touch and to move and to do this by getting close to 'nature.'"

"Nature" in this exhibit refers to the artists, their private processes, certain facets not commonly divulged.

"A sketch is generally more spirited than a picture," Diderot said. "It is the artist's work when he is full of inspiration and ardor, when reflection has toned down nothing. It is the artist's soul expressing itself freely on canvas. His pen or skillful pencil seems to sport and play a few strokes, expressing the rapid fancy, and the more vaguely art embodies itself, the more room there is for the play of imagination...In the latter, the subject is fully worked out for us to look at; in the former, I can imagine so many things which are only suggested."

Viewers are thus given the chance to be privy to the artists' souls and the icons the latter have created.

The curatorial work is done with her usual savvy by Yeyey Cruz, who's now with the Singapore Museum of Art. Here, she takes audiences on a walk of progression. First are snippets of thought, etymological texts on drawing and sketching emulsioned onto the walls of the hallway. These are also intermittently seen in between panels and artworks.

Upon turning to the room on the right, the careful juxtaposition presents itself subtly. Both ends of the hall beckon from out of the corner of one's eyes, the spacing between each piece crucial.

"When curating, you must never be afraid of wide spaces," said Cruz.

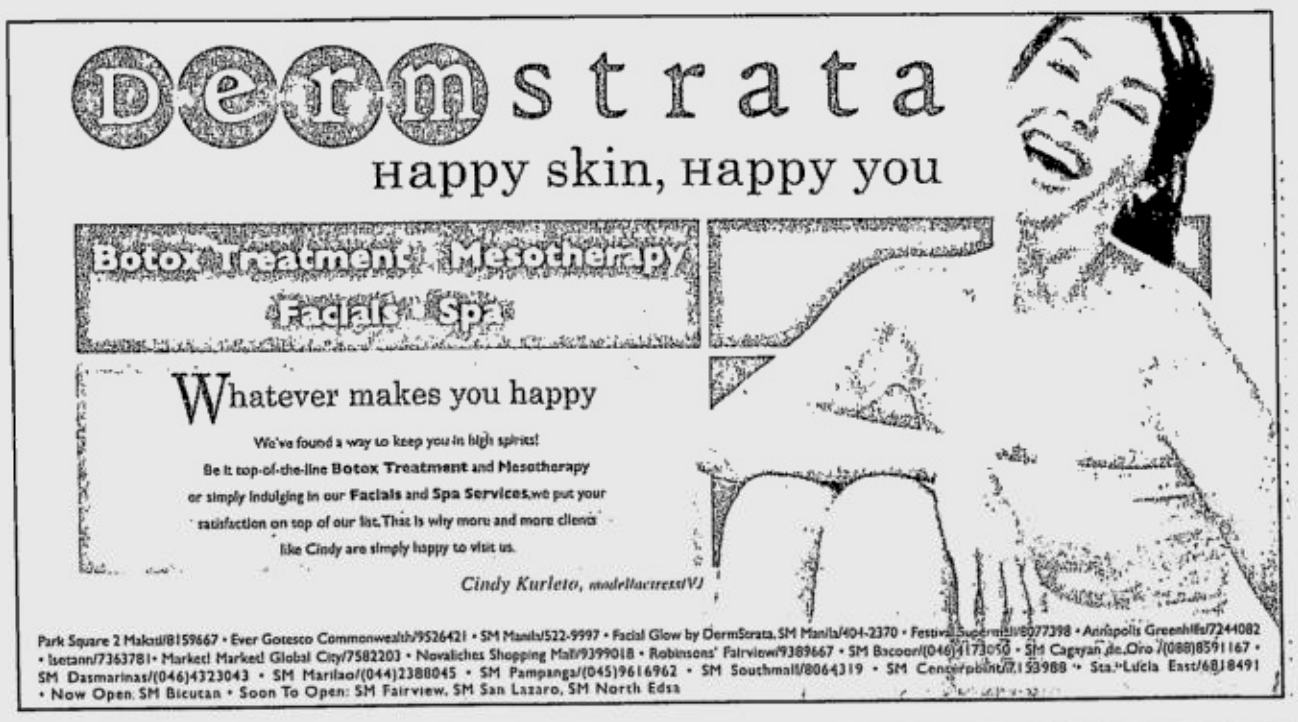
More journeys

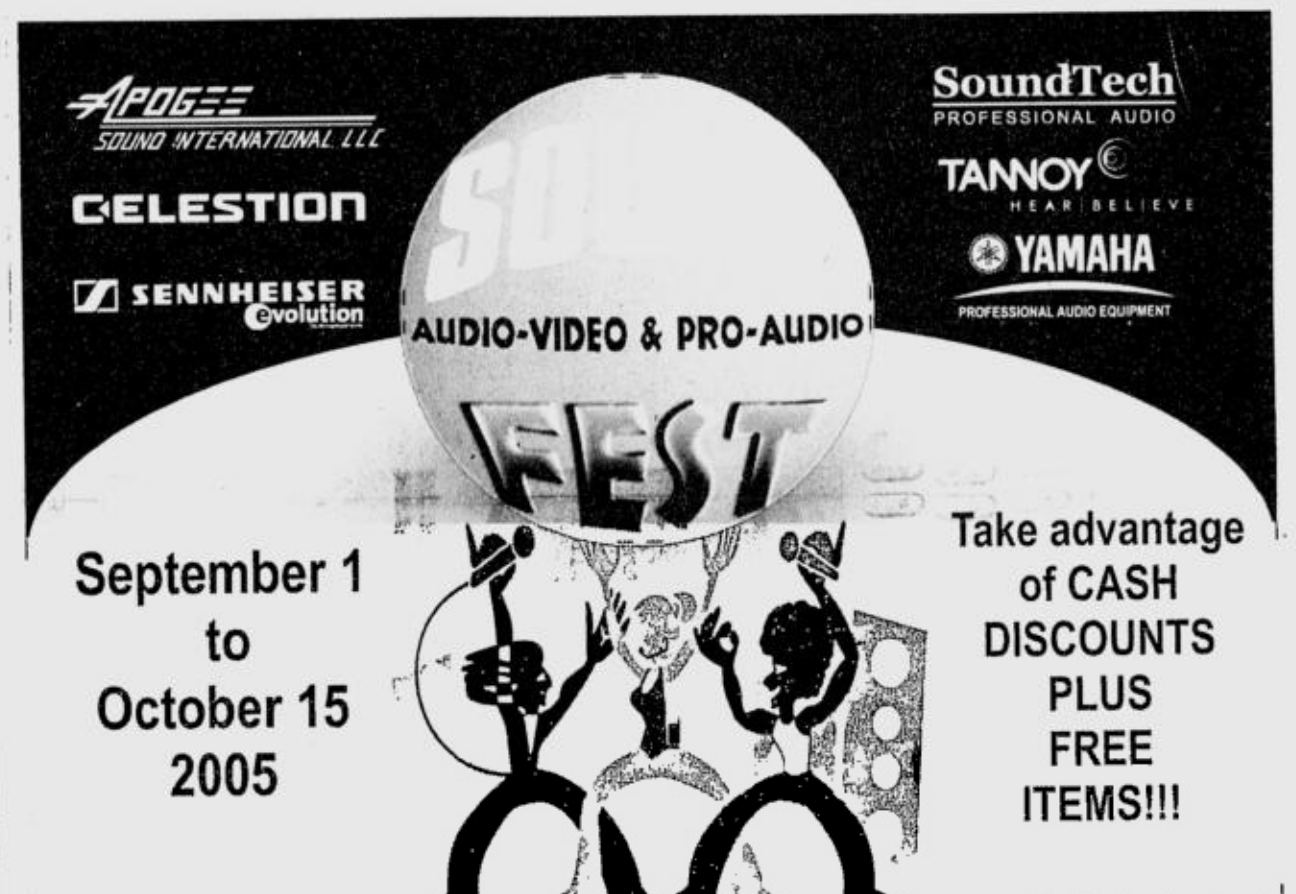
To the right are the "musings" of Arturo Luz, Romulo Olazo, Fernando Zobel. Then, as the eyes pan toward the left, a journey back to the ateliers of Juan Luna and Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo begins.

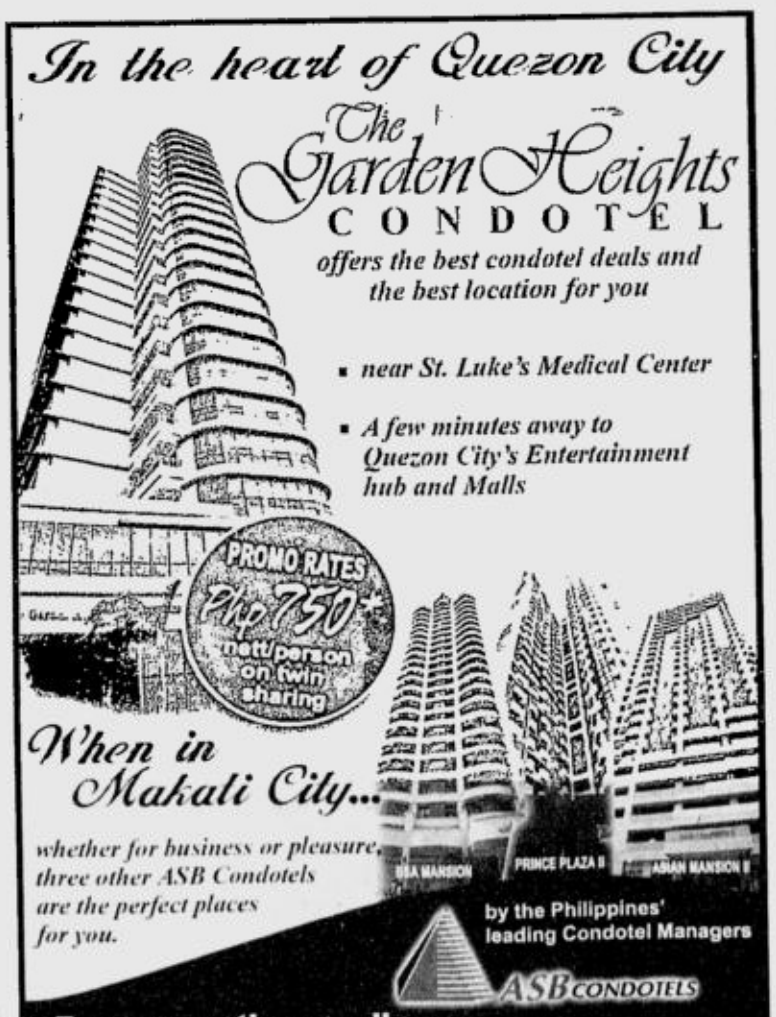
Then the visitor is told Luna actually penciled the drawings on the wall as a young student and then comes face to face with centuries-old experimentations of the grand masters.

After Luna the student's mannerist studies comes the visual telling of tales. From rough, single-figure renditions in various poses to those that have several of these subjects already grouped together, then finally to the finished study.

HITS/ F2







'Mature' friends mount art exhibit

"WEAPING Willows ," by Emily Marcelo

THE CHARMS of September" is an exhibit of a group of "mature" friends who discovered the excitement and wonders of painting before it was too late in their lives.

This vocation may have just started as hobby for them, but their dedication to their newfound craft can be gleaned in the intensity of the canvases in the exhibit.

Myrna Yatco Buendia, a happily married wife and a young grandmother, specializes in gardens, flowers, jars and bouquets of flowers in vases.

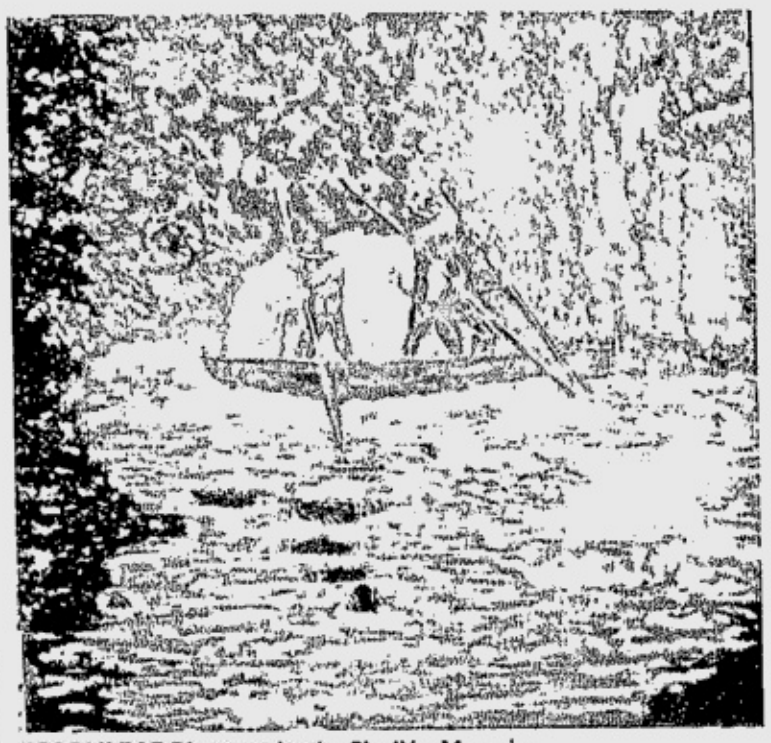
She began painting in 2002, under Nestor Villanueva, and had her first exhibition that same year. This fulfilled her dream to enjoy the arts hands-on. Myrna uses oil as medium, with brushes and a palette knife.

Paulito Garcia specializes in bold and loud colors, with a slant toward impressionism. His subjects vary from structures to places to "everyday stuff." As far back as his early youth, he has always loved to sketch and color. In high school, he enrolled for two summers in painting classes under Manuel Rodriguez Sr.

During this period, Garcia won the AAP Grand Prize in the pastel category. He left painting after he graduated, building an alternative career that has led him to his occupation today as a successful chief operating officer of two companies engaged in manufacturing and distribution. But after a long hiatus, and with encouragement from his wife, Garcia resumed his interest in painting. Today, he spends much of his weekends in front of the canvas.

"Like many artists with a passion, I am utterly lost when I paint, and I feel I am locked in loving embrace romancing the canvas until I am satisfied with my work," he says.

Emily Marcelo specializes in an open and more subdued style. A radio commentator for the program "Kalikasan Vigilante" on DWBR 104.3 FM and a columnist for the INQUIRER, she began painting in 2002. Her subject matter revolves around nature—landscapes, seascapes, trees, sunsets—reflecting her role as an environmentalist.



"CORNLEAF, Blossoms by the Sky," by Marcelo

"WEAPING Willows," by Marcelo

Inspired by her friendBuendia, Marcelo, who had no previous art experience, joined Villanueva's painting class. She credits him with instilling in her the confidence to follow her muse and continue painting.

"Had I gotten another teacher with a myriad rules to follow, I don't think I would have painted at all," she says.

She paints with oil, using a palette knife in most of her works. "Oil is an easy medium and the palette knife follows the strokes I want to put on my canvass."

Marcelo has 25 paintings on display. "I want people to feel good and at peace when they look at my paintings," she says.

Marisa Romero also studied under Villanueva. A successful interior designer, she began painting only in 2000, beginning with garden themes and then evolving into bigger-than-life flowers and blooms.

She has discovered seascapes, and is now embarking on abstract works with no rules. All her works are in oil and will continue to be, she says, "till I find another medium that appeals to me."

"The Charms of September" opens on Sept. 13 at 5:30 p.m. at Le Souffle, Rockwell, and will run for a month. Call 4502993 to 96.

Hits and misses of art's gestation

From page F1

Truly, it is like Luna laid bare, but it is not like clothing stripped piece by piece, but rather the unfolding addition of elements that reveal him. The stroll through each aisle usually ends with the final study in oil. Almost literally a walk through time.

Three paramount goals guided Cruz in her museum work. One, that history be preserved. Second, that discourse may ensue from the presentation, and last but definitely not least important, to share art with the greater public.

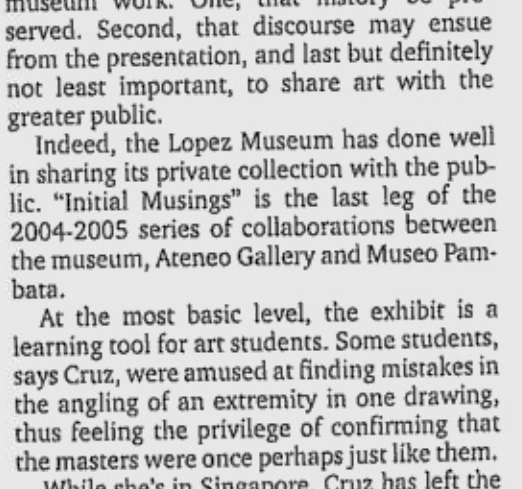
Indeed, the Lopez Museum has done well in sharing its private collection with the public. "Initial Musings" is the last leg of the 2004-2005 series of collaborations between the museum, Ateneo Gallery and Museo Pambata.

At the most basic level, the exhibit is a learning tool for art students. Some students, says Cruz, were amused at finding mistakes in the angling of an extremity in one drawing, thus feeling the privilege of confirming that the masters were once perhaps just like them.

While she's in Singapore, Cruz has left the curatorial work to the capable hands of Eileen Legaspi-Ramirez as curatorial consultant and Andrick Caesar Francisco as collections consultant. Both have extensive experience in museum documentation and conservation.

In tune with the belief of Diderot, so that art would "touch" and "move" viewers, a peek into the revered artists' "initial musings" is highly recommended for a much-needed brush with art and history.

Email the author at jejaro2002@yahoo.com



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"VIRGEN Maria ng Pag-asa"

FRONT: Rey Salamat, Al Perez, Danny Pangan, Ernie Velasquez. Back: Cris Velasco, Joey Angeles and Jess Santos

FRONT: Dennis Fortos, Jerson Samson, RG Habulan, JP Samson, Mikel Parial. Back: John Antido, Mario Parial, Ferdie Montemayor, Edrick Raymond Daniel, Antonio Ariola, Joven Mancit, Wilson Ma

"MORIONES"

Artists unite to dispel gloom; Lakan Sining is 30

Parial and Montemayor lead collaboration

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

MARIO Parial and his fellow artists from Antipolo have banded together to produce art and protest the defeat of the impeachment case against the President in Congress. Since most of them reside in the hills of Antipolo, their sunny disposition must have rubbed off in their collaboration, "Virgen Maria ng Pag-asa," a 10 ft x 20 ft acrylic painting showing the Virgin Mary leading a mammoth congregation in prayer and reflection.

Ferdinand Montemayor organized a series of interaction works in The Crucible at Megamall. Among those who participated were Wilson Ma of the Saturday Group, Katag (Kabataan ng Tondo Art Group), Jerson and Jaypee Samson, Mikel Parial, John Paul Antido, Guerrero Habulan, Dennis Fortozo, Joven Mansit, Edrick Daniel and Antonio Arriola.

For two weeks, passersby at the Artwalk observed the artists taking turns in depicting demonstrations of People Power around the country.

It helped that Montemayor had a sense of scope in delineating the Pahiyas in Lucban, Quezon, or the Higante Procession in Angono, Rizal. It likewise helped that Antido, Habulan and the Samson brothers were enamored with the festive colors of Antipolo celebrations. Ditto with Mikel Parial, who is no stranger to the celebratory hues of festivities, having a father who has painted the Pinoy folk activities with glorious verisimilitude.

The convivial twists and turns of the brush helped infuse mirth and a dose of the good old *bayanihan* spirit to the effort. Plans are afoot to take the images to key cities around the country.

Bulacan artists

Another group, Lakan Sining ng Bulacan, which brings art groups from Bocaue to Paombong, is celebrating its 30th anniversary, with three simultaneous exhibits in three separate venues.

The exhibits involve over 60 artists. Lakan Sining has produced such luminaries as Jose Joya, Tomas Bernardo, Cenon Rivera, Amadeo Manalad, Malang, Raul Isidro, Fil Delacruz and UST Fine Arts dean Jaime de los Santos. Emerging artists as Joel Bartolome, Alexander Roxas, the Samonte brothers (Jeff and Marvin), and Noli Manalang also came from the group.

The SM Marilao exhibit will hold an art workshop on Sept. 9, which is open to the public, especially students. The Artspace in Glorietta Makati will have a live sketching session for two weekends.

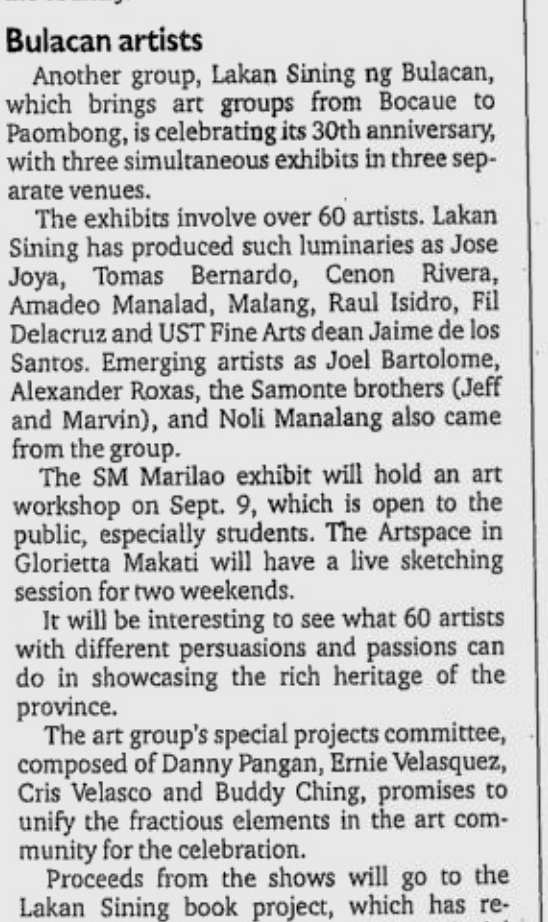
It will be interesting to see what 60 artists with different persuasions and passions can do in showcasing the rich heritage of the province.

The art group's special projects committee, composed of Danny Pangan, Ernie Velasquez, Cris Velasco and Buddy Ching, promises to unify the fractious elements in the art community for the celebration.

Proceeds from the shows will go to the Lakan Sining book project, which has received a generous grant from the provincial government headed by Gov. Josie de la Cruz.

Here's to 30 more years of glorious art-making by Lakan Sining!

E-mail the author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com



"CALESA," by Ernie Velasquez

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ART & HISTORY FROM THE VATICAN COLLECTIONS
Asian Civilisations Museum, 18 June - 9 October 2005

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LA VIRGENCITA Maria Santisima, from Rei Nicolas collection

SANTA Ana, patroness of the church

RELIEF of St. Dominic. Franciscan churches, like Sta. Ana, always include an image of the founder of the Dominican Order just as Dominican churches include an image of St. Francis of Asisi. Both saints were contemporaries and friends.

Marian icons on exhibit at Sta. Ana Church

AN EXHIBIT of Marian icons will run on Sept. 8-11 at the historic Sta. Ana Church in Manila.

The affair is being organized by Fr. Kim Suela, OFM, parish priest of Sta. Ana Church, in collaboration with Philip M. Escudero, president of Cofradia de Nuestra Señora de los Desamparados, to commemorate the birth anniversary of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Rei G. Nicolas, a pioneer production designer in the Philippines, is curator. Nicolas was also behind a number of exhibits at the UST Museum of Arts and Sciences and the Museo de Sto. Domingo in Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City.

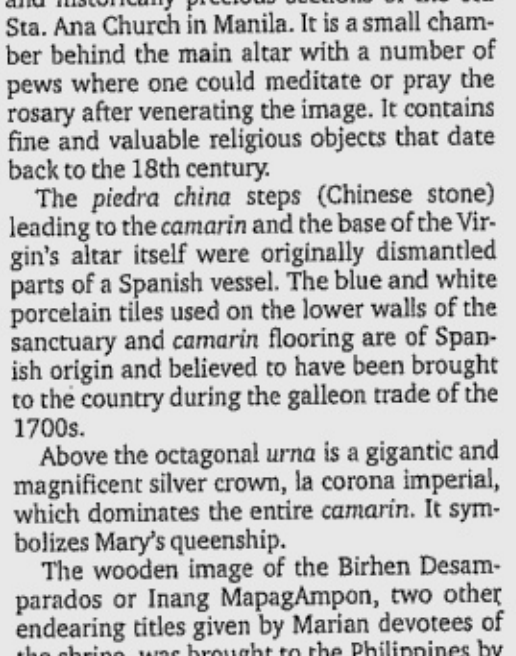
The exhibit includes Marian images from the private collections of Dr. Ino Wonchai, Gino Marasigan, Mila Pizarro, Noel Abquilan, Tom Joven, Jun Manahan, Philip Escudero, Doña Carmen Reyes, Steve de Leon and Nicolas.

The *camarin*, or small room, which houses the venerated image of Our Lady of the Abandoned, is truly one of the more interesting and historically precious sections of the old Sta. Ana Church in Manila. It is a small chamber behind the main altar with a number of pews where one could meditate or pray the rosary after venerating the image. It contains fine and valuable religious objects that date back to the 18th century.

The *piedra china* steps (Chinese stone) leading to the *camarin* and the base of the Virgin's altar itself were originally dismantled parts of a Spanish vessel. The blue and white porcelain tiles used on the lower walls of the sanctuary and *camarin* flooring are of Spanish origin and believed to have been brought to the country during the galleon trade of the 1700s.

Above the octagonal *urna* is a gigantic and magnificent silver crown, la corona imperial, which dominates the entire *camarin*. It symbolizes Mary's queenship.

The wooden image of the Birhen Desamparados or Inang MapagAmpon, two other endearing titles given by Marian devotees of the shrine, was brought to the Philippines by Fr. Vicente Ingles, OFM. It has been a much venerated icon for centuries.



BEHIND this Baroque *retablo* is the *camarin* of Our Lady of the Abandoned.

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